An L Investigation

Blood Money

How This Book Works

This book is an interactive presentation of materials and information. If you see an image, it is hyperlinked so you can click and visit the source where it came from. Throughout, there are images that will link you to videos, articles, images, etc., to supplement the statements and arguments being made. There are footnotes at the bottom of each page as well for every source.

This is a story that I've tried (and failed) to convey several times, and the culmination of a significant amount of research. I hope you enjoy it, and I hope it brings to light some information and connections in one of the darkest periods of American history.

- L

Introduction

In the midst of 2020, the mainstream media spun itself many tall tales of heroism against the “big bad” Republicans and their leader, President Trump. One being the Lincoln Project, which crashed and burned[1] in a spectacular fashion, and the other is none other than the governor of New York himself, Andrew Cuomo. These are just two of a myriad of examples of times in which the mainstream media absolutely lost it last year in its efforts to take down conservatives to to construct the narrative they needed to win.

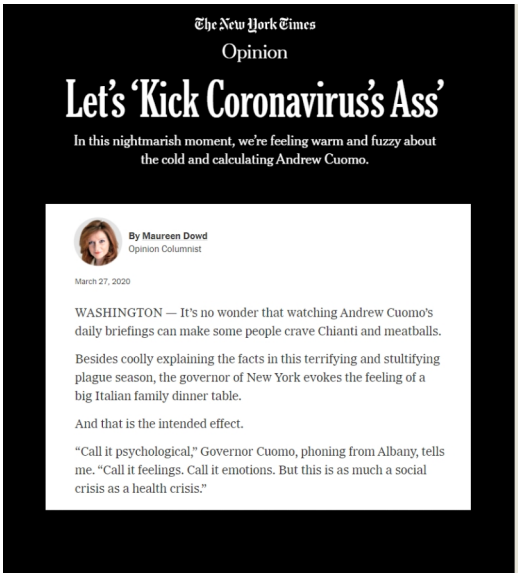
Let’s rewind to the early days of the Covid-19 outbreak taking over the mainstream media cycle, when celebrities and news anchors alike wasted no time in piling on the praise for Andrew Cuomo. The left was seemingly desperate for someone to look to during Covid, and the media gave them one. Thus began the era of the “Cuomosexual,” and the resulting reports and op-eds are downright embarassing:

- Chelsea Handler wrote an opinion piece for Vogue titled[2], “Dear Andrew Cuomo, I Want to Be Your First Lady.” In it she wrote, “Thank you for talking about the value of human life and for reminding us that no one’s mother is expendable. I love you, Andrew Cuomo.” And yes, the image to the right was used for that

1 https://web.archive.org/web/20210429080626/https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2
protecting-predator-john-weaver.html

article, in a more-than ridiculous display of political worship and praise for the disgraced governor.

- Maureen Dowd evoked images of a big Italian family in her piece[3] for the *New York Times* about Cuomo in late March, glossing over the topic of nepotism when it comes to Governor Cuomo's late father and former Governor of New York, Mario Cuomo, and making light of his on-air antics with his younger brother, Chris Cuomo, who hosts a prime-time segment on CNN—a segment that both brothers appeared on together several times in 2020.



The New York Times

Opinion

Let's 'Kick Coronavirus's Ass'

In this nightmarish moment, we're feeling warm and fuzzy about the cold and calculating Andrew Cuomo.

By Maureen Dowd
Opinion Columnist

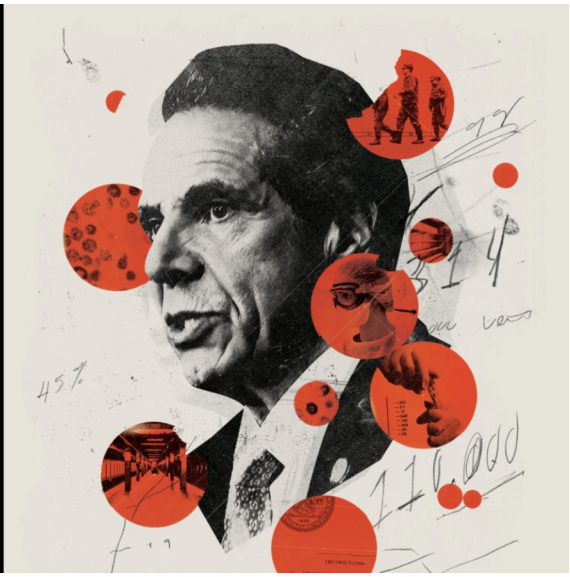
March 27, 2020

WASHINGTON — It's no wonder that watching Andrew Cuomo's daily briefings can make some people crave Chianti and meatballs.

Besides coolly explaining the facts in this terrifying and stultifying plague season, the governor of New York evokes the feeling of a big Italian family dinner table.

And that is the intended effect.

"Call it psychological," Governor Cuomo, phoning from Albany, tells me. "Call it feelings. Call it emotions. But this is as much a social crisis as a health crisis."



- A *Marie Claire* piece[4] titled, "My Boyfriend Andrew Cuomo's New Girlfriend is America" describes the governor as, "62 years old, Sagittarius, divorced, recently single after his tabloid break-up with Sandra Lee, a father, dog owner, and brother of the arguably (much) hotter CNN anchor Chris Cuomo."
- Molly Jong-Fast, frequent critic of all things Republican, wrote a opinion column[5], "Why We Are Crushing on Andrew Cuomo Right Now" in which she declared, "All of a sudden, I love Governor Cuomo, his soothing Queens accent, his stories about

2 https://web.archive.org/web/20210421201231/https://www.vogue.com/article/chelsea-handler-andrew-cuomo-love-letter
3 https://archive.ph/K5Hd7
4 https://web.archive.org/web/20200330011318/https://www.marieclaire.com/culture/a31945211/andrew-cuomo-hot/
5 https://archive.ph/UceSZ

his dad Mario (himself a three-time governor of New York) and his 88-year-old mother Matilda.”

Introduction

Day after day, an endless stream of propaganda from the legacy media creeps into our lives, whether we like it or not. You might catch an occasional news clip, watch a video parroting the same underlying ideas, or perhaps even a friend or family member has been manipulated into acting as an ambassador for the messaging—at the end of the day, it's everywhere and it's unavoidable.

In early 2020, the titan that is the mainstream media designated anyone suggesting individual liberties *still matter*—even in the middle of a pandemic—is brainwashed, deranged, and a threat to humanity. Therefore, many of us were labeled public enemy #1 last year. Simply because we didn't allow societal pressures convince us valuing our freedoms is a selfish act.

Brainwashing is easier to do than many of us realized. We've had to learn that lesson over the past year. Naturally, people want leaders during harder times, because people need someone to emulate. Especially given the many uncertainties and contradictary stories we were faced with day in and day out. All good stories need a hero and a villain. When the people that get to write the stories that are largely in the public eye don't care to represent reality, the heroes and villains aren't accurate either.

Anyone who is anyone in the legacy media seized the opportunity that Covid-19 gave them, and began writing op-eds, appearing on talk shows and news programs, and seeking attention on social media platforms. They berated President Trump and those who

support him. They made heroes out of scientists twisting narratives for political power. They created living folk heroes out of corrupt politicians by conflating their public feuds with President Trump with actual leadership and competence.

If you'd asked me this time last year to predict who of all the Democratic leaders would be considered a disgrace in 2021, the last person I would have guessed would be Andrew Cuomo. At that point in time, he was seemingly on top of the world, and a media darling. As it turns out, he was one of the biggest propped-up media heroes of 2020. Once lauded[6] as the "Trump Whisperer," in the New York Times among other ridiculous things, he is now subject to a large amount of well-deserved scrutiny. Well, kind of. For many in the mainstream media, reporting on all of the things Cuomo did so incorrectly last year also serves as commentary on their own failures as news outlets.

After all, the entirety of 2020 comprised of media figures and celebrities piling on so much praise he won an International Emmy Award for his daily press conferences. They also encouraged an extremely unhealthy level of public adoration of him—to the point they called themselves Cuomosexuals (and no, I'm not kidding). There was even a period of time in which Democrats and news anchors constantly pressured him to jump in last minute as the 2020 Democratic nominee for president instead of Joe Biden. The list could go on and on, but really the only question I want to ask is this:

Would the things we are going to discuss today wouldn't have gone unnoticed for so long before the truth finally came out.

Instead, people lavished Governor Cuomo with praise as he wrote and published a book about what a great job he had done—in the

6 https://web.archive.org/web/20200403093105/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/03/nyregion/cuomo-trump-coronavirus.html

middle of last year—which is similar to George Bush and his "Mission Accomplished" banner, looking back at it.

For Cuomo it all started to fall apart at the beginning of 2021, when he and his administration came under heavy fire from New York's Attorney General, Letitia James, as reports made the evening news that Cuomo's top aide admitted hiding the state's data on nursing home deaths. Even more disgraceful, it was done for political reasons—they didn't want to catch the ire of President Trump.

Soon after that, James would release her report on her team's findings on the abject failure of Cuomo's administration to protect New York's most vulnerable, skew and manipulate the details surrounding the thousands and thousands of excessive deaths in nursing home facilities, and their botched cover-up. Her report suggests Cuomo and his team under counted nursing home deaths in New York by as much as 50%.

This is a man who won awards and published a book about his success—and it's all going up in smoke.

For many in the mainstream media, this is also particularly embarrassing for them, because after years of trying and failing to take down President Trump, Andrew Cuomo emerged in early 2020 as a person who could potentially at least stand up to him… which nobody had quite managed to do before very well. But to do that, Cuomo would need a little help with some flattering reporting—which he got in spades from news networks, celebrities, and late-night talk show hosts alike. if he got a little bit of help, of course. Which he did.

As more and more details kept surfacing to the public eye, a Democratic Assemblyman would announce that Cuomo had

threatened to “destroy him” if he revealed what had happened—in private of course, but it all came out in the end.

Then came the “Me Too” reports, where at least ten former staffers of Cuomo’s came forward to share their experiences with the disgraced Governor in which he either made them feel incredibly uncomfortable, or worse still, inappropriately touched or kiss them. According to some who came forward, this was a culture of his work entourage, and was sadly normalized to the point where speaking out about it felt like it would get nowhere.

Other New York Democrats and Republicans alike have been very vocal in their criticism since the dam broke and the details kept flowing out. From Chuck Schumer, to Kirsten Gillibrand, to mayor De Blasio—one by one, Cuomo’s allies proved that they weren’t all *that* loyal. Not that he deserved their loyalty whatsoever.

Prior to the media latching onto him as their chosen adversary for President Trump, Governor Cuomo was generally quite unpopular. But when he was chosen, and he was lifted up and avoided major scrutiny when he deserved it the most.

The rise and fall of Andrew Cuomo’s Covid-19 fame is the stuff of political legend… except for one problem. His administration has locked themselves down and is now all but ignoring the issues being brought forth. In a similar fashion to Ralph Northam when it was discovered he had done black face several times—Cuomo seems to operate in a way that suggests he believes if he lays low for a while, he might come out unscathed.

Making heroes out of politicians is one of the most sickening trends of the last four years by far, and the media worship of Governor Cuomo is no exception. The mainstream media, in my opinion, is complicit in misleading the public and lulling them into a false sense

of security and trust in Cuomo. Had that narrative not been latched onto so tightly, perhaps a few critical eyes could have helped New York out of their living hell much sooner. Who knows how many lives were lost because of it?

It's too soon to tell if Cuomo might escape this mess unscathed, but there is also another side to this scandal that hasn't been mentioned yet—one relating to the now-infamous order given by his administration last spring.

On March 25, 2020, Governor Cuomo's State Department of Health issued a directive that said nursing homes must take Covid positive patients, and that they were not even allowed to test a person suspected to be ill before taking them in.

Governor Cuomo insists that the directive did not end up forcing anyone into nursing homes, because there were always enough beds to cover the city—the original estimate for beds needed was so far off it would be comical if the results weren't so tragic. Because despite Cuomo's insistence in gaslighting the public into believing his lies—many reports would come out in various publications about the directive and its disastrous effects on long-term care facilities.

Just another lie to add to the very long list—a list that keeps growing by the day.

What many do not know is that Andrew Cuomo was already in trouble with the State of New York's medical budget, before anyone knew Covid-19 existed. His mishandling of State Medicaid funds began sometime in 2016, and snowballed into New York entering 2020 with a deficit of billions of dollars. A deficit that existed almost entirely due to Cuomo.

After making that discovery and working backwards, a sinister truth began to emerge—the long-term care facilities that saw so much

death and tragedy over the course of 2020 were the same long-term care facilities that were starting to draw heavily on the State Medicaid budget, which had made Cuomo's careless handling of the budget all-the-more pronounced.

Furthermore, many of the advisors and experts that Cuomo assigns to his task forces are the same people that indirectly and directly contribute heavily to his and the New York State Democrat election budget funds. In 2018, when many Progressive candidates in the state of New York unseated over half a dozen long-time incumbent Democrats, Cuomo's position as governor was threatened by that surge, and those same people and organizations pushed his funding so over the top that he ended up beating his opponent handily.

But he owed favors after that, which exacerbated his Medicaid budget gap even more, which led to a devious shifting of funds from one FY to the next in 2019 to hide it, and even more favors owed to nursing home and hospital executives, as well as lobbying groups and lobbyists that Cuomo catered to generously.

When the Covid-19 pandemic began in earnest in New York, Cuomo had a golden opportunity—he could request significant amounts of Federal aid to help cover his deficit, and they planned to cut Medicaid spending in a few strategic areas as well. Yes, on April 1, 2020, as Covid descended on New York and ravaged its way through nursing homes and killed thousands, Cuomo and his Medicaid Redesign Team—stacked with people from those executive hospital teams—decided to move forward with their drastic budget cuts.

Not only that, those same lobbying groups advocated aggressively for, and won, protective immunity that covered everything up to criminal liability for not only the staff working inside the hospitals and assisted-living facilities, but the same group of executives and board members that keep Cuomo's election budget very healthy.

Worse still, though Cuomo claims that protective immunity is no different than the verbiage you would find in any other state, that is not the case. And he had already issued an executive order two weeks prior that covered nurses, doctors, and medical staff already.

This project will explore all the details I mentioned in this introduction thoroughly, as well as the corrupt nature of Governor Cuomo utilizing his newfound fame and adoration to skirt common etiquette when it came to appearing no less than nine times on his brother's primetime show on CNN to win over the public.

It will also explore his troubled past with staffers being indicted and arrested for bribery charges and a litany of other white collar crimes. And finally, it will look into the nature of his relationship with his top aide, Melissa DeRosa, who is a little-known integral part of the entire equation. Her job history, along with her family's political and lobbying ties all add up to a very powerful woman—the most powerful non-elected position in the entire state government, in fact—who also claims to play by the straight and narrow. In reality, her behavior and history suggest she is cut from the very same cloth as her boss.

I haven't seen or read anything that has pulled together the whole picture, which is why I endeavored to do this project in the first place. It has taken countless hours to track down, research, and discover this story in its entirety—or at least in the entirety that you'll see presented here. The worst part about this scandal is knowing what Cuomo and his cohorts are capable of lying about—there really is no telling what we don't know.

Regardless, I hope you enjoy the culmination of a significant amount of research and digging, on a topic that is so tragic it deserves every second I spent on it. The people of New York deserve justice for

their lost loved ones. Had things gone differently, many of them might still be here.

What Andrew Cuomo and his legion of sycophants and donors have done to the state of New York is nothing less than a crime against humanity. They attempted to orchestrate a massive cash grab, and instead left untold thousands vulnerable and unable to protect themselves from a death they did not deserve.

Furthermore, the mainstream media outlets and organizations that lauded Cuomo as a hero when it was so obvious it was untrue, helped orchestrate this sloppy cover-up. And every last one of them, whether directly or indirectly involved, are complicit as far as I am concerned.

This is one of the most horrific examples of incompetence, bad faith, negligence, and manslaughter for political gain I've ever seen.

I hope you enjoy, as we begin exposing Cuomo’s lies and manipulation. Bit by bit. We’ll get there.

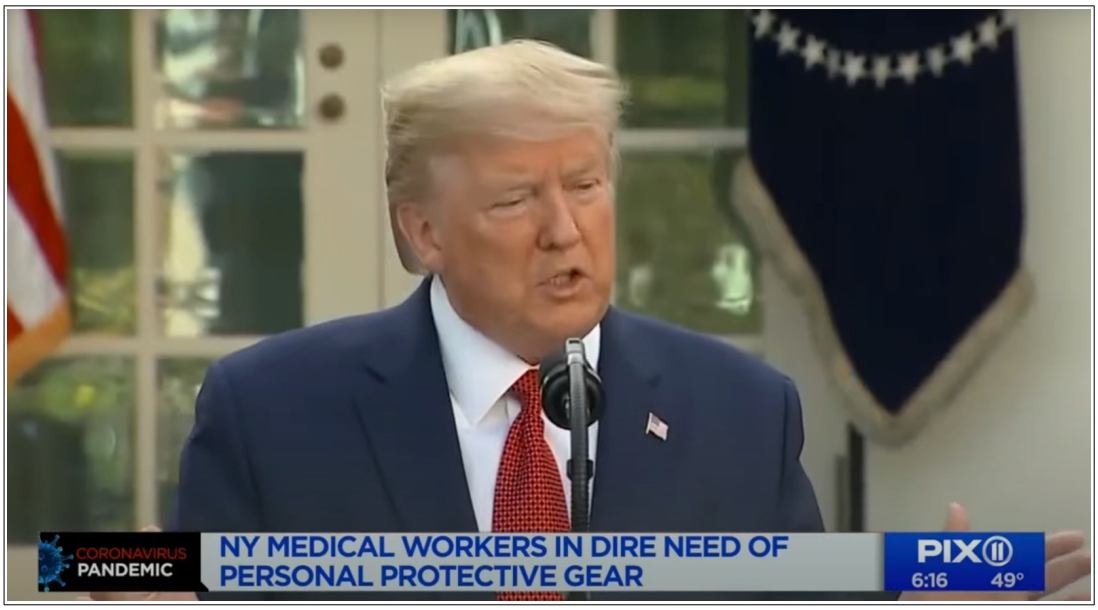
I present to you: Blood Money.

Chapter One: The Mainstream Media Propaganda Machine

Governor Cuomo had clearly emerged as a favorite in the media and was treated with celebrity status among other celebrities—but that treatment leaked into standard news reporting that might have otherwise be considered relatively "fair and balanced news." I say that somewhat sarcastically, but the reporting on Cuomo from outlets like the *New York Times*, *CNN*, *MSNBC*, etc., went from being relatively unfairly skewed to

> ***Cuomo Emerges as 'Trump Whisperer' During Coronavirus Crisis***
>
> Using flattery and indirect attacks, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has nurtured a working relationship with President Trump.

In the example above, the *New York Times* moons over Governor Cuomo NOT criticizing President Trump for suggesting the massive spike in PPE usage was abnormal (even within the context of a viral outbreak) and could be a sign of theft of those items.



Video – Trump Concerned About PPE

Appearing on Cuomo Prime Time, a show on CNN named for and hosted by Andrew Cuomo's younger brother Chris Cuomo, Governor Cuomo was asked his thoughts on President Trump insinuating equipment was going out the back door. Governor Cuomo replied, "It's a very vague thing. It went out the back door? I don't know what that means[7]."

In the *Times* article, Governor Cuomo's response to his brother is painted as an artful balance between being tough and being diplomatic so he can remain in President Trump's good graces. The author of the article seems to believe President Trump might withdraw federal Coronavirus funding for New York should he be publicly challenged. Therefore, by that insane line of reasoning, Andrew Cuomo is a selfless hero trying to protect his New York residents, even if it meant kissing up to President Trump.

In reality, Governor Cuomo's artful dodge from criticizing President Trump was likely due to the fact that he'd made the exact[8] same statement three weeks prior on March 6th.

7 https://soundcloud.com/nygovcuomo/governor-cuomo-is-a-guest-on-cnn-cuomo-prime-time-with-chris-cuomo
8 https://web.archive.org/web/20200307114723if_/https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/06/people-are-stealing-face-masks-from-local-hospitals-gov-cuomo-says.html

> “Not just people taking a couple [PPE supplies] or three, I mean just actual thefts of those products," Cuomo said at a press conference in Albany. "I've asked the state police to do an investigation, look at places that are selling masks, medical equipment, protective wear, feeding the anxiety."

The Media Wrap Smear. This is a prime example of the double standards the mainstream media has for President Trump and anyone who supports him, compared to their standards (or lack thereof) for anyone else. As reports of PPE theft from hospitals and doctor’s offices popped up around the country, the *New York Times* and a cadre of other news outlets went on the defensive:

- Deborah Levine, a propagandist for *The Washington Post*, wrote an article[9] titled, “No, Mr. President, Healthcare Workers Aren’t Stealing Masks. You Failed Them.”
- Left-wing Twitter talking heads parroted[10] the same sentiments.
- Joe Biden called it “reckless and ignorant,” much to the joy of the Huffington Post[11].
- Progressive news outlet[12] *The Ring of Fire* published a lengthy video in which the presenter laments about the president’s statement.

Death By MSM. In a crucial time when PPE theft **mattered**, the ones with the ability to raise awareness and do something about it did the exact opposite. They ignored the problem with deadly consequences and instead fought for clicks and views by bashing President Trump.

Perhaps if they’d taken two minutes to do a simple web search, they would find:

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9 https://archive.ph/S3duq
10 https://www.breitbart.com/the-media/2020/03/30/reports-mask-theft-not-controversial-trump-brought-up/
11 https://www.huffpost.com/entry/biden-trump-face-masks-reckless_n_5e81618fc5b6256a7a2d1f11
12 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zvu-JpD5lo&ab_channel=TheRingofFire

- *Modern Healthcare* reported[13] on March 3rd that an infectious disease physician in Boston said her hospital in Boston was targeted for PPE theft.
- In California, hospital workers said people were "running into hospitals and stealing masks and hand sanitizers, or ripping them off the walls." It was such a problem that SLO county put out a public notice[14] pleading for people to stop.
- The *South Florida Sun Sentinel* reported[15] a physician's assistant stole enough PPE for it to be classified as a felony.
- In the Cuomo brothers' own back yard, a New York woman was arrested[16] on April 1, 2020, for stealing medical supplies and shipping them to other people.

Instead, Blue Anon (as they are now rightly called) whipped up another reactionary media frenzy[17] to distract and divide Americans. In hindsight, it would be interesting to try to figure out how many people may have died due to lack of PPE in those larger cities, and if they might not have if the media had done its job.

Alas, instead the media and attention seekers got their Trump hate porn clicks... and accomplished nothing useful all in one go. Such is the life of the legacy media. Informing the public is out… it's all about the Google Adsense revenue, baby!

What is Blue Anon? As a side note, if you weren't aware, "Blue Anon" is a term created in early March 2021 to describe, "A loosely organized network of Democrat voters, politicians and media

13 https://web.archive.org/web/20200429093656if_/https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/hospitals-struggle-properly-prepare-coronavirus
14 https://web.archive.org/web/20200319101913/https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/health-and-medicine/article241307676.html
15 https://www.sun-sentinel.com/coronavirus/fl-ne-hospital-theft-ppe-arrest-20200405-7y2acr2hprfcvpdnafivputnza-story.html
16 https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/hospital-worker-33-is-arrested-for-stealing-a-box-of-masks-from-work-and-shipping-them-to-other-people/ar-BB122fec
17 https://www.breitbart.com/the-media/2020/03/30/reports-mask-theft-not-controversial-trump-brought-up/

personalities who spread left-wing conspiracy theories such as the Russia Hoax, Jussie Smollett hoax, Ukraine hoax, Covington Kids hoax, and Brett Kavanaugh hoax. Blue Anon adherents fervently believe that right-wing extremists are going to storm Capitol Hill any day now and "remove" lawmakers from office."

TOP DEFINITION

Blue Anon

A loosely organized network of Democrat voters, politicians and media personalities who spread left-wing conspiracy theories such as the Russia Hoax, Jussie Smollett hoax, Ukraine hoax, Covington Kids hoax, and Brett Kavanaugh hoax. Blue Anon adherents fervently believe that right-wing extremists are going to storm Capitol Hill any day now and "remove" lawmakers from office.

Everyone knows that Trump was a Russian plant!

Bro? Do you have any proof?
Yes! An unnamed source was quoted in the paper!
Sounds like another Blue Anon...

by artymcfee March 07, 2021

The term gained a lot of attention when it was first added[18] to Urban Dictionary on March 7th. It was then subsequently removed, and then added back again. Despite being a meme on a satirical dictionary website, Blue Anon is real and should be referred to as such.

A Media-Created Monster. For Andrew Cuomo, blind and unwavering support from the mainstream media, a sense of accessibility fostered by silly interviews with his brother, the antics of Blue Anon, and a Stockholm Syndrome sort of adoration that came from his captive audience, all combined to create perfect conditions for a looming disaster involving Governor Cuomo to come to fruition without many noticing. Publicly, if you spoke out against him in any way, you would be excoriated. Cuomo was the Democratic golden boy, and he was untouchable—even while he was quietly setting up New York to fail.

Operation Mockingbird 2020. Katrina vanden Heuvel, a WaPo propagandist with TDS, wrote[19] a starry-eyed op-ed titled, "Can Andrew Cuomo become FDR?" All the while, Cuomo was lining the pockets of donor groups and lobbyists, signing legislation that gave

18 https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Blue%20Anon
19 https://archive.is/vjIlq#selection-951.0-951.28

immunity to hospital executive from civil and criminal liability. But hey, at least he stood up to Orange Man!

In this montage of clips put together by Newsbusters, media talking heads fawn over Governor Cuomo in a comical fashion. You'll see Brian Stelter, Chris Hayes, Rachel Maddow, Lester Holt, Chris Cuomo, and many more, heaping on the praise with a shovel.

Video – MSM Praising Cuomo

If you're like me, you might be asking why on Earth Chris Cuomo could team up with his politician brother to bolster their narratives. The stakes are at an all-time high to be honest and report truths, and instead CNN abandoned the last shreds of any integrity they had in favor of their newfound sky-high ratings.

The Cuomo Brothers Propaganda Power Hour

It's not the first time they'd ever appeared together while both on the job, but when it happened before people were a lot more critical. In 2013, CNN and the Cuomo brothers got backlash[20] when Chris interviewed[21] Andrew after a Metro-North train derailed and killed four people.

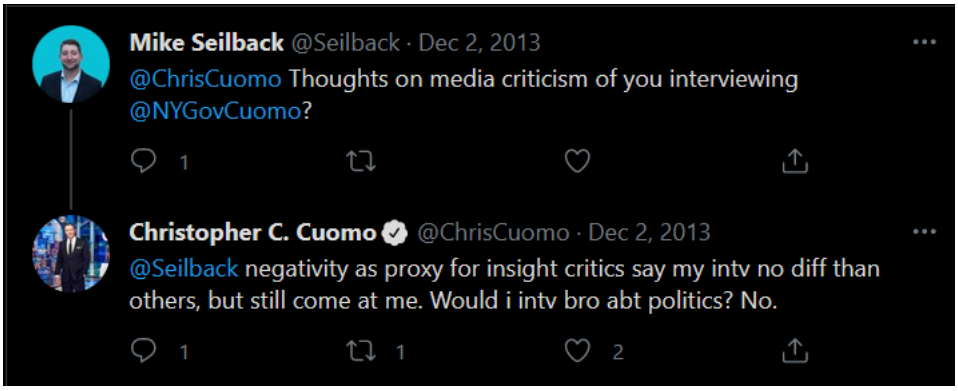
Video – Chris Cuomo Defends Interview

Some did defend[22] him however, such as Greta Van Susteren from Fox News and *The Daily Beast*[23].

20 https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2013/12/chris-cuomo-interview-brother-andrew-cuomo.html
21 https://www.huffpost.com/entry/chris-cuomo-andrew-cuomo-interview_n_4371574
22 https://web.archive.org/web/20131205092725/http://gretawire.foxnewsinsider.com/2013/12/02/i-dont-have-any-problem-with-cnns-cuomo-interviewing-his-brother-ny-governor-cumo-about-the-train-crash-some-do-but-i-dont/
23 https://www.thedailybeast.com/chris-cuomo-defends-his-cnn-interview-with-his-brother-gov-andrew-cuomo

Chris's response was extremely dismissive and overlooked crucial details about his brother's authority[24] over the MTA, which is a state agency. Governor Cuomo appointed its chairman, CEO, and five of nineteen board members—so when Chris said it wasn't about politics or his brother's career, he was either being ignorant or evasive. Despite Chris disclosing their familial relationship, it did nothing to negate the actual conflict of interest either.

In a similar situation in 2012, Brian Stelter himself wrote[25] about a conflict of interest with Greg Kelly interviewing his father, who was Police Commissioner.



Fredo Responds. When asked on Twitter his thoughts on the criticism, Chris said he wouldn't interview his brother about politics. For years after, CNN didn't allow the Cuomos to appear in interviews together. From what I could find, that was the only prior instance, and it was mild enough of an interaction. However, Chris insisted repeatedly that he wouldn't have done it if it were a conflict of interest or about Governor Cuomo's political career.

So when the duo first landed on the screen together in 2020, all of those platitudes went out the window. And when Americans ate up their antics onscreen together and *Cuomo Prime Time*'s ratings **doubled** last year, I imagine CEO Jeff Zucker somewhere shrugged his shoulders and said, "fuck it."

24 https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2013/12/chris-cuomo-interview-brother-andrew-cuomo.html
25 https://web.archive.org/web/20200529044254/https://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/27/nyregion/greg-kelly-of-fox-tv-not-shy-on-being-ny-police-leaders-son.html

Money talks, as always. Chris hosted Andrew on his show at least nine times between March 19 and June 24 in 2020 because of it.

But unlike Chris's insistence that their interview in 2013 was no different than it would have been for someone else, their screen time was vastly different in 2020. Their interactions were a bizarre blend of gleaming praise for the Governor from his brother, convincing the viewer that they were just two fun brothers trying to save America, and… prop comedy. I wish I were kidding on that last one.

Ask yourself… could we have survived 2020 without seeing *this*?

Video – Chris and Andrew Cuomo Prop Comedy

And modern journalists have the audacity to wonder why more and more Americans don't take the MSM seriously and complain when they are told as much by people who see through it. Baffling.

Emotional Manipulation. It's not just CNN and the Cuomos ignoring their prior commitments to not letting it happen again, it's also that very few media outlets even paused to consider how

inappropriate their on-screen antics were. Instead, Chris joined his brother in attaining MSM folk hero status:

- The Associated Press (the outlet with the power to declare the president whenever they want to, apparently) reported[26] that their "teasing big brother-little brother dynamic often enlivens their appearances together. The governor called him his best friend."
- Vanity Fair published[27] an article claiming their antics were great entertainment, "whether out of the need for distractions, heroes, or points of clarification."

Those are just two quick examples, but there are far more.

Finally, in the middle of 2020, CNN expressed a small amount of self-awareness and had Chris mention that it was, in fact, not normal for a politician and a news anchor with a familial relationship to appear together on TV as much as they did.

Video – Praising Cuomo on Show & Appealing to Emotions

26 https://web.archive.org/web/20210302200651/https://apnews.com/article/27e09f3eeed851d38a6d75cd094996d1
27 https://archive.is/d8Juf#selection-665.145-665.222

Chris says it would never be “seen as” fair. But in the next sentence, he makes an emotional appeal to the audience. An audience of isolated and lonely people, prone to being manipulated emotionally to excuse and overlook the issue. The most honest thing Chris says is that he’d never be objective. But nobody seemed to notice or care that he wasn’t… until now.

Chris Crosses the Line. Another red flag in their increasing comfort of Governor Cuomo appearing on *Cuomo Prime Time* was the moment Chris popped in as a guest on Governor Cuomo’s official press briefing on April 2, 2020. Prior to that moment, you could make the argument that television, even the news, is a form of entertainment and in that setting neither Governor Cuomo nor Chris Cuomo have any obligation to be anything other than just that: entertaining.

With the roles reversed, however, Governor Cuomo *is* required to be more than entertainment. Chris Cuomo showing up as a sort of guest star, wearing his show’s branded hat no less, for an official state Coronavirus briefing crossed a line. Again, nobody seemed to notice or care.

Video – Press Briefing

A Family Affair. Propped up by the mainstream media as the one man who could handle President Trump, Governor Cuomo's meteoric rise in popularity led to Chris Cuomo's subsequent spike in media ratings, which would ultimately lead to Chris's wife capitalizing off general public interest about their family while he was sick with Covid-19.

Reliable Sources With Brian Stelter covered the Cuomo brothers with much praise, leading me to believe that Stelter is even more of a hack than we already believed he is.

> **"The beast comes at night"**
>
> CNN's **Chris Cuomo** has become the most visible face of the coronavirus in the United States by giving daily updates about his condition on TV, social media and, on Thursday, at his brother's New York state press briefing.

Cuomo Quarantine

Chris appeared in the New York State press briefing with Governor Cuomo while he was supposedly quarantined in his basement and battling Covid. Cuomo and his wife, like many other wealthy New Yorkers, lived in their Hamptons home and enjoyed a significantly higher level of personal autonomy than those who couldn't afford to leave Manhattan.

Adventures in Quarantining. So in his $2.9 million Southampton home's basement, Chris portrayed himself as somewhat of a warrior and warned others to heed his brother's words and pay attention to the daily briefs. For some, it was compelling and encouraged them to take the virus more seriously. With the audience's growing sense of camaraderie with the Cuomos came a natural rise in public interest about their families. Chris frequently mentioned his wife, Cristina, whom he was quarantined from in the basement.

Cristina has a website called The Purist where she seems to emulate a sort of Gwenyth Paltrow-esque, Goop-ish lifestyle.

Cristina Cuomo's Alternative Medicine. In a post in April of 2020 titled "Chris Cuomo's Corona Protocol," it reads: Purist founder Cristina Cuomo outlines the health and diet regimen followed by her husband, CNN anchor Chris Cuomo, while he battles COVID-19[28]."

28 https://web.archive.org/web/20200407023057/https://thepuristonline.com/2020/04/chris-cuomos-corona-protocol/

The post reads like an Instagram influencer fever dream, mentioning Light Harmonics energy medicine, plugging a $6000 Sunlighten sauna, a long list of supplements, items from Tapovana, Juice Press, Organic Kush, and Honest Plate. It reads like a really expensive ad, down to the promo code listed after the detox juice she says is helping Chris fight off and recover from Covid-19.

It's ironic both Chris and Andrew repeatedly insulted President Trump for suggesting alternative therapeutics and methods to fight Covid-19… all the while Cristina is telling people who might be curious to learn about her husband's bout with illness that she helped him get better by serving him boutique brand supplements and juices that her good friends just so happen to be the owners of—and with a promo code to boot!

Corona Cusine: Day 11 lunch of which Chris will spread out over several hours due to lack of appetite. Here, Organic Krush's delicious organic chicken salad with Juice Press' "green" salad dressing; Organic Krush's Power Greens savory soup with broccoli, kale, spinach, shallots, garlic vegetable broth, salt, black pepper, safflower oil to which I added couscous and chives; Lemon, ginger and honey tea; a pitcher of lemon water in my favorite Tory Burch pitcher to add some pretty color to the mix.

Special Guest Jeffrey Sachs. In a particularly interesting twist of fate, Cristina mentions she and Chris got help from their friends - while they were both sick with the virus. In a humble brag-style name dropping section of her post[29], she mentions that none other than Jeffrey Sachs was one of the people who bought groceries and dropped off supplies for them.

29 https://web.archive.org/web/20200407023057/https://thepuristonline.com/2020/04/chris-cuomos-corona-protocol/

CHRIS' CORONA FOOD + DRINK DIET made with ❤️ by me and friends like Karina Srb, Marcy Warren, Carol Reed, Roxine Brown, Southeast Indian cuisine chef Corey De Rosa of Tapovana, and dropped-off cure-alls like the ones sent by Erika Karsh, owner of Juice Press (Use code PURISTJP to get 10% off your next Juice Press order online!), and finally, the team at Organic Krush in Amagansett. My order of Honest Plate prepared cuisine got my kids through the week. Also, thank you to those who shopped for groceries and household items we ran out of—Helen Cleland, Don Lemon and Tim Malone, Lisa and John Haley, Gigi Howard, Robert Fowler, Eden Williams, Maria Cuomo Cole, and Jeffrey Sachs. And thanks to the friends who came with feel-good humor, like Chris Henchy and Brooke Shields with a rendition of John Cusack singing Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes" from *Say Anything*, and Jordan and Heather Turkewitz for the blow-up rubber nurse doll. (She deflated quickly, reflecting the mood of the times.) I am most grateful for the outpouring of love, which helped lift all of our spirits too! And, TY to my sister Andrea for taking care of our parents because I can't help right now. #Foreverfriends

Sachs & Daszak. If you watched the first episode of this series, you'll know Jeffrey Sachs is a close colleague of Peter Daszak—the man at the center of the Covid-19 origin story controversy. He was run off Twitter a couple of years ago for defending Huawei fiercely to the general public—until someone found out he had a major conflict of interest due to his involvement with the company. He also designed the SDGs for the United Nations and Agenda 2030… and is a peer and friend of George Soros.

How are Chris Cuomo and his wife on such good terms with Jeffrey Sachs? So much so that he's dropping off groceries for them while they're sick? What are the odds?

Chris Caught. So everything was going well for the Cuomos, until a fellow resident in the area caught Chris out and about on Easter Sunday. The man knew Chris was still Covid positive, as he'd been seeing him frequently on TV alongside his brother. Chris was spotting checking out an undeveloped property he'd purchased in East Hampton.

At that time, all non-essential construction had been halted, which means there was no good reason to visit the property, especially in

violation of orders to quarantine while sick. The man called Chris out, rightfully so, and the interaction caused a fair amount of buzz in the media for a couple of days.

In response to the negative attention he was getting (for once), Chris went on his SiriusXM radio show and lamented that he no longer liked what he did for a living because he couldn't tell the "jackass, loser, fat-tire biker" to "go to hell" or "shut your mouth."

ENTERTAINMENT

Chris Cuomo And George Stephanopoulos Break Quarantine, Expose Public To Coronavirus

Governor Andrew Cuomo is silent after his brother, CNN host Chris Cuomo, breaks coronavirus quarantine and goes off on a rant about being confronted.

Video – Chris Cuomo Bitches About Average People Calling Him Out

In the midst of the Covid outbreak in New York going downhill fast, the death toll starting to climb rapidly, and thousands losing their jobs and financial security, Chris Cuomo decided that being able to tell people to go to hell mattered "more to me than making millions of dollars a year."

Read the room, big guy. That doesn't make you cool, that makes you an insecure jackass.

Lockdown Lunacy. New Yorkers with significantly less personal wealth were shuddered up inside their cramped apartments for weeks on end—due to Governor Cuomo's orders—unable to leave or earn an income. Chris Cuomo and a legion of other wealthy New Yorkers

fled the locked down streets of Manhattan and flocked[30] to their homes in the suburbs. Simultaneously, they brought the virus with them into smaller cities and towns, some of them admitting to doing so knowingly.

Along the way, the elites bought out all the small grocery stores in those areas, leading to a lack of supplies and food scarcity for locals who lived in the area year-round during the down time. Supermarkets were not supplied like they would be in tourist season, and they were caught complete unprepared.

Hamptons Raided. An owner of a small grocery store in the Hamptons spoke to the *New York Post* recounting[31] the time a person came into his shop at the onset of Covid in the area and spent over $8,000, stripping his shelves bare of many essential items. Socialite Jean Shafiroff lamented that she was forced to cook at home and was spending $300 to $1000 a day for groceries and supplies… and that she bought her local drugstore's entire supply of… dental floss: "I even bought the drugstore out of all its dental floss. I wanted to make sure I had enough, along with extra toothbrushes, soap, toothpaste and body lotions," she said. "If I have to be quarantined, I better look nice."

The Cuomo Social Circle. Those are the same kind of people that Chris Cuomo and his wife surround themselves with and see eye-to-eye with on things. And despite Andrew Cuomo playing up their humble roots to seem likable by his voter base, he's not that dissimilar either. He's had several public

> I did not recognize in Ghislaine Maxwell the young woman her friends had described to me—the racy, glamorous social flibbertigibbet whom George Hamilton had escorted to the Ever Ready Derby in England and skied with in Aspen, who had attended the Kerry Kennedy-Andrew Cuomo wedding, and who had once instructed her father's pilot to put his helicopter into a free-fall to scare her fellow passenger.

30 https://nypost.com/2020/03/19/we-should-blow-up-the-bridges-coronavirus-leads-to-class-warfare-in-hamptons/
31 https://nypost.com/2020/03/18/chic-hamptons-food-stores-ransacked-by-the-wealthy-amid-coronavirus-pandemic/

relationships with high-profile women. He was married for 15 years to Kerry Kennedy, the daughter of Robert F. Kennedy—Ghislaine Maxwell attended[32] their wedding, as a side note. After that, he was in a 14-year relationship[33] with Sandra Lee, the "Semi-Homemade" Food Network star.

According to an investigation[34] that came out on March 21, 2021, high-level members of the state Department of Health were directed last year by Governor Cuomo and and Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker to conduct prioritized coronavirus testing on the governor's relatives as well as influential people with ties to the administration.

Dr. Eleanor Adams, an epidemiologist who in August became a special adviser to Zucker, conducted testing on Cuomo's brother Chris at his residence on Long Island, according to the two people.

Nurses were driven to private residences in New Rochelle — the presumed site of the state's first outbreak — to test people who were symptomatic or who had been exposed to the virus. Law enforcement officers, including parole officers, were tasked with driving those samples to the Wadsworth Center laboratory in Albany.

NEWS

Parole officers in New Rochelle coronavirus hotspot call in sick

Experts recommend scaling back parole rules and limiting office visits

Brendan J. Lyons | March 17, 2020 | Updated: March 17, 2020 3:14 p.m.

32 https://archive.vanityfair.com/article/1992/3/the-sinking-of-captain-bob
33 https://www.nickiswift.com/203749/this-is-why-andrew-cuomo-and-sandra-lee-broke-up/
34 https://web.archive.org/web/20210325034957/https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/High-level-health-officials-were-tasked-with-16044748.php?cmpid=twittersocialflow

Despite what they'd like you to believe, the Cuomos are not two humble brothers who live modest lifestyles. They exercise their power and influence over others whenever they see fit—which is often.

Andrew Cuomo's brother is worth over $10 million dollars, and is the kind of person for whom Robert Downey Jr. just so happen to make house visits when he's sick. Andrew Cuomo's familial circle, friend circle, and those of his previous relationships, are all interconnected to the rich, famous, and influential.

However, the most powerful and influential people Andrew Cuomo surrounds himself with are those that are in his political circle—a circle that operates on a low-profile, is notoriously cutthroat, and runs like a machine.

The New York Times

9 Fund-Raisers in 1 Night: Democrats Vow Reform in N.Y., but Money Still Flows

Pay to Play

Andrew Cuomo has a long history of doing favors for donations, whether he'll admit it or not. All you need to do is dig a little bit into his transaction history.

August 9, 2013. Gov. Cuomo got $100,000 from developer, then signed law giving it big tax breaks.[35]

Two corporations tied to Extell Development each contributed $50,000 to Cuomo's campaign, which recorded the checks on Jan. 28 — the same day the Assembly passed a housing bill that contained tax breaks for five developers, including Extell, records show.

Cuomo signed the legislation two days later.

The twin $50,000 donations were made by Elco Master LLC and 134 W 58 LLC. Each listed the same Louisville, Ky., address of Extell Financial Services, which is part of Extell Development. It was the first time either company contributed to Cuomo, state records show.

And less than three weeks after the bill became law, Extell President Gary Barnett donated $100,000 to a state Democratic Party account that Cuomo was tapping to finance ads pushing his agenda. Records dating to 1999 show it was the only time he gave to the state party.

35 https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/cuomo-100k-developer-signing-tax-break-law-article-1.1422003

A Cuomo aide called it "beyond reckless" to suggest the governor is influenced by donations. Melissa DeRosa said the Extell checks were written Jan. 14 for a fund-raiser held a week earlier that yielded more than $3 million.

"To suggest any connection beyond that is an irresponsible distortion of the facts," said DeRosa, who maintained the bill was supported by the Legislature and the city.

August 29, 2013[36]. Gov. Cuomo re-iterated Thursday that the special commission he formed to root out corruption in state government has free rein to investigate whoever it wants - and that includes the governor.

"Anything they want to look at they can look at – me, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, the comptroller, any senator, any assemblyman," Cuomo told reporters during a stop in Oneida Thursday. "They have total ability to look at whatever they want to look at ."

Cuomo said his so-called Moreland Commission was the "most aggressive thing that I can do" to restore the public's faith in government.

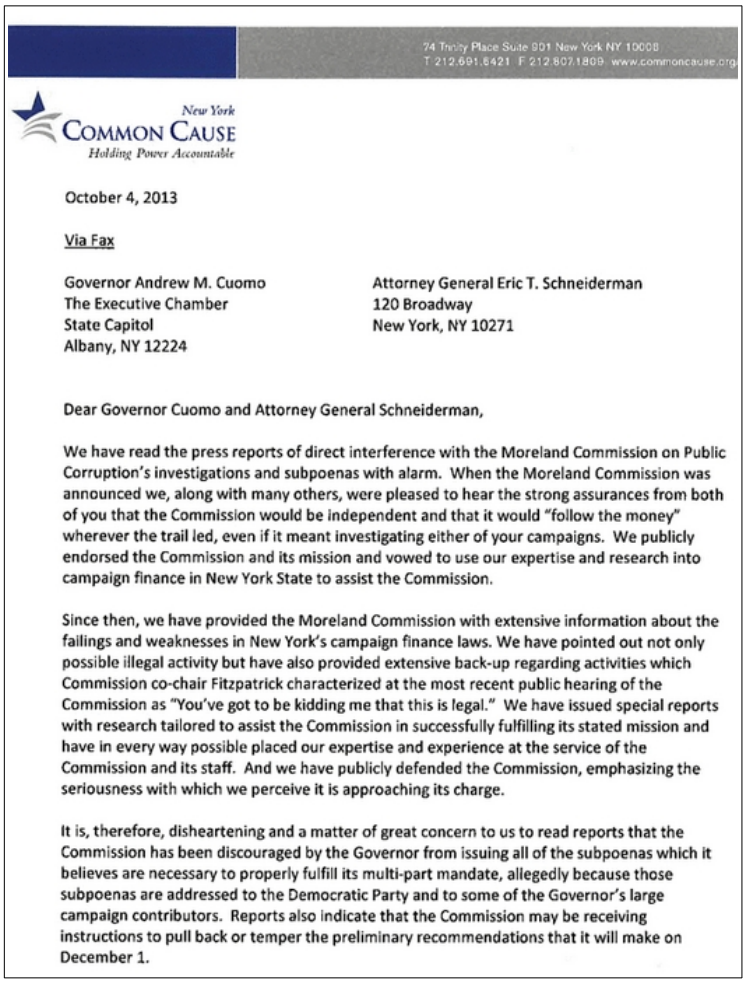
October 8, 2013[37]. The turmoil over the commission began in late August, when it asked members of both houses of the Legislature to release information about their outside income above $20,000. Several weeks later, lawyers for the Legislature refused, saying, “These demands substantially exceed what New York law authorizes.”

36 https://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/ny-gov-cuomo-moreland-commission-blog-entry-1.1696093
37 https://web.archive.org/web/20161130113918/http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/08/nyregion/cuomos-office-is-said-to-rein-in-ethics-board-he-created.html?_r=0

The commission's relationship with the governor's office has also been freighted. It issued a flurry of subpoenas at the start, but then was slowed by Mr. Cuomo's office in several instances, according to people familiar with the situation who insisted on anonymity because they feared retribution by the governor.

In one such instance, when the commission began to investigate how a handful of high-end residential developers in New York City won tax breaks from Albany, its staff drafted, and its three co-chairmen approved, a subpoena of the Real Estate Board of New York. But Mr. Cuomo's office persuaded the commission not to subpoena the board, whose leaders have given generously to Mr. Cuomo's campaign, and which supported a business coalition, the Committee to Save New York, that ran extensive television advertising promoting his legislative agenda.

October 4, 2013.



74 Trinity Place Suite 901 New York NY 10006
T 212.691.8421 F 212.807.1809 www.commoncause.org

New York
COMMON CAUSE
Holding Power Accountable

October 4, 2013

Via Fax

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
The Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Dear Governor Cuomo and Attorney General Schneiderman,

We have read the press reports of direct interference with the Moreland Commission on Public Corruption's investigations and subpoenas with alarm. When the Moreland Commission was announced we, along with many others, were pleased to hear the strong assurances from both of you that the Commission would be independent and that it would "follow the money" wherever the trail led, even if it meant investigating either of your campaigns. We publicly endorsed the Commission and its mission and vowed to use our expertise and research into campaign finance in New York State to assist the Commission.

Since then, we have provided the Moreland Commission with extensive information about the failings and weaknesses in New York's campaign finance laws. We have pointed out not only possible illegal activity but have also provided extensive back-up regarding activities which Commission co-chair Fitzpatrick characterized at the most recent public hearing of the Commission as "You've got to be kidding me that this is legal." We have issued special reports with research tailored to assist the Commission in successfully fulfilling its stated mission and have in every way possible placed our expertise and experience at the service of the Commission and its staff. And we have publicly defended the Commission, emphasizing the seriousness with which we perceive it is approaching its charge.

It is, therefore, disheartening and a matter of great concern to us to read reports that the Commission has been discouraged by the Governor from issuing all of the subpoenas which it believes are necessary to properly fulfill its multi-part mandate, allegedly because those subpoenas are addressed to the Democratic Party and to some of the Governor's large campaign contributors. Reports also indicate that the Commission may be receiving instructions to pull back or temper the preliminary recommendations that it will make on December 1.

April 9, 2014[38]. U.S. Attorney Criticizes Cuomo's Closing of Panel

In the letter sent April 3, Mr. Bharara asked the chairmen and the commission's staff — all of whom were appointed by the governor — whether Mr. Cuomo had abandoned his commitment to fight corruption for a short-term political gain.

"The sequence of these events gives the appearance, although I am sure this is not the intent, that investigations potentially significant to the public interest have been bargained away as part of the negotiated arrangement between legislative and executive leaders," he wrote.

38 https://web.archive.org/web/20210209191844/https://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/10/nyregion/us-attorney-criticizes-cuomos-closing-of-panel.html?_r=0

A spokeswoman for the governor, Melissa DeRosa, said: “The Moreland Commission was designed and formed to be a short-term, temporary commission to recommend and spur legislative action, which it did successfully. The order establishing the temporary commission directed referrals upon its conclusion to the attorney general, district attorneys and U.S. attorneys and that’s what it is doing.”

April 24, 2014[39]. Cuomo on Moreland tampering: It's my commission

Gov. Andrew Cuomo says that any possible interference by his administration into the operations of the recently disbanded Moreland Commission would not be subject to investigation.
“It’s not a legal question. The Moreland Commission was my commission,” Mr. Cuomo explained. “It’s my commission. My subpoena power, my Moreland Commission. I can appoint it, I can disband it. I appoint you, I can un-appoint you tomorrow.

"So, interference? It’s my commission. I can’t 'interfere' with it, because it is mine. It is controlled by me.”

October 5, 2015[40] - NY's Highest-Paid State Employee Loves His Ferrari, Bathroom Selfies, Sexist Jokes
Alain Kaloyeros, a Lebanese-American scientist, university administrator, and tech-industry liaison for the state of New York, took home $987,075 in taxpayer money for his salary last year, making him the top-paid state employee. It took Kaloyeros a while to get to this spot. As the Gotham Gazette recently summarized:

Working with five governors, and powerful legislative allies like former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Kaloyeros has overseen

39 https://web.archive.org/web/20210309174733/https://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20140424/BLOGS04/140429924/cuomo-on-moreland-tampering-it-s-my-commission
40 https://web.archive.org/web/20190531094341/http://gothamist.com/2015/10/08/highly_paid_state_worker.php

the development of [SUNY's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering] while attracting millions of dollars of outside investment. He oversees over $14 billion worth of campuses, labs, and scientific "clean rooms" across the state. Under Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Kaloyeros added to his portfolio helping the state direct the Buffalo Billion program that has attracted major investments from IBM and SolarCity - and now, from U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara.

September 22, 2016[41] - Physicist in Albany Corruption Case Was a Geek With Big Goals

For eight of the nine defendants charged on Thursday in the wide-ranging bribery and bid-rigging scheme surrounding Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s economic development programs in upstate and Western New York, the motive for the alleged crime seemed to be simple, old-fashioned greed.

But for Alain E. Kaloyeros, a physicist who rose from a basement laboratory at the State University at Albany to oversee hundreds of millions of dollars in state economic development funds over a quarter-century, a more complex purpose seemed to be at work. Beyond money, the rewards he sought appeared to be power, prestige and, perhaps most of all, the fulfillment of a long-held dream: reinventing upstate New York as a Rust Belt Silicon Valley.

Often working with a lobbyist, Todd R. Howe, a former aide to Mr. Cuomo, Dr. Kaloyeros is accused of personally drafting and revising several requests for proposals to favor certain developers, including one for a SUNY Polytechnic dorm, another for a campus research building and two connected to huge economic development contracts in Syracuse and Buffalo.

41 https://web.archive.org/web/20201108121027/https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/23/nyregion/physicist-in-albany-corruption-case-was-a-geek-with-big-goals.html

In 2012, after Mr. Cuomo announced that the state would spend $50 million to open a medical research hub in Buffalo, modeled on what Dr. Kaloyeros had done at SUNY Polytechnic, Dr. Kaloyeros christened the Albany-Buffalo pipeline "the Andrew Cuomo 21st century high-tech innovation canal."

Mr. Cuomo happily reciprocated: The state owed the scientist "a tremendous amount of gratitude," the governor said last year.

November 13, 2017[42] - Cuomo, a Master of the $50,000 Fund-Raiser, Bypasses Small Donors

Mr. Cuomo's campaign account has grown by over $23.6 million since the start of 2015 but only roughly $30,000 came from individual donors who gave less than $200, the federal threshold for disclosure.

In December, Mr. Cuomo is throwing a birthday fund-raiser that will feature former President Bill Clinton and a performance by Jon Bon Jovi. Top-tier access to the event, which includes a private reception with the governor, will cost $50,000.

One reason small donations are so critical for federal races is the far more restrictive giving limits. Presidential candidates can only raise money in $2,700 increments for the primary; in New York, Mr. Cuomo can raise up to $65,100[43] for his re-election.

2018. In March of 2018, Cuomo's challenger, Cynthia Nixon, dropped a bombshell on the nature of Cuomo's political donation history. While she raked in $2,214 in donations from small contributions on the first day of her political campaign, she revealed that Cuomo had received $1,369 from small donations—since 2011. That's seven years at that time[44].

42 https://web.archive.org/web/20201125024609/https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/13/nyregion/cuomo-a-master-of-the-50000-fund-raiser-bypasses-small-donors.html

43 https://web.archive.org/web/20201019065154/https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/Finance/2017ContributionLimits.pdf

44 https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2018/03/22/cuomo-small-donors-cynthia-nixon

When asked about it, Governor Cuomo brushed it off as a “small question.”

CUOMO 2018

Please join
Pam and Larry Baer, Thomas Brown, Charlie Carter, Russ Elmer, Karl Cole-Frieman, Sam Hodges, Chris Larsen, Ben Lawsky, Lizanne and Barry Rosenstein, Munjal Shah & Nat Simons
for a breakfast in support of
NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR
Andrew M. Cuomo

Tuesday, November 14th, 2017
8:30AM

Downtown San Francisco, CA
Address upon RSVP

Co-Host: $10,000 | Patron: $5,000 | Friend: $1,000
Checks payable to: Andrew Cuomo 2018

CUOMO 2018

Please join
Laura & Jeff Shell, Bob Iger, Leslie Moonves, Kevin Tsujihara, Tony Vinciquerra, Bob Bakish, Jim Gianopulos, Andy Spahn, Stacey Snider, Jeffrey & Marilyn Katzenberg Chip Smith and Charles Rivkin
for an intimate evening in support of
NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR
Andrew M. Cuomo

Tuesday, November 14th, 2017
6:00 PM: Host Committee Reception
6:30 PM: General Reception

Home of Laura and Jeff Shell
Beverly Hills, California

Chair
$50,000
Includes Host Committee Reception

Co-Host
$25,000 per couple / $12,500 per individual
Includes Host Committee Reception

Patron
$10,000 per couple / $5,000 per individual

Since the beginning of 2015, Mr. Cuomo has raised[45] over 99 percent of his campaign money from donations larger than $1,000 and nearly 99.9 percent of his funds from donors who gave at least $200, according to an analysis by The New York Times. At one point last year, Mr. Cuomo went six months without reporting a single individual donor who gave less than $200.

45 https://web.archive.org/web/20201125024609/https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/13/nyregion/cuomo-a-master-of-the-50000-fund-raiser-bypasses-small-donors.html

May 14, 2018[46] - DFS AUTHORIZES GEMINI TRUST COMPANY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL VIRTUAL CURRENCY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

July 5, 2018[47] - Culture of Fear and Ambition Distorted Cuomo's Economic Projects

They were both demanding, mercurial, prone to explosive outbursts. They shared a penchant for lofty rhetoric and a fondness for flashy cars. They liked to be in charge.

But only one was the governor of New York. And so the other, Alain E. Kaloyeros — the former president of New York Polytechnic Institute who became Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's "economic guru" — squelched his own alpha male personality and toiled to improve his standing with Mr. Cuomo.

He hired a lobbyist to learn how to curry the governor's favor. He peppered his emails with glowing praise of Mr. Cuomo.

And then, as the point person behind the "Buffalo Billion," the governor's signature economic development project, Dr. Kaloyeros steered more than $600 million in state contracts to companies run by Mr. Cuomo's donors, according to federal prosecutors.

In two interlinked corruption trials over the past six months, prosecutors have described a web of financial schemes that they say propelled the state's most vaunted economic development projects. What has also emerged is a portrait of the culture that fueled those projects — one in which state officials, lobbyists and businessmen, driven by a potent mix of ambition and fear, vied to satisfy a governor's office hungry for results.

46 https://web.archive.org/web/20180729112245/https://www.dfs.ny.gov/about/press/pr1805141.htm
47 https://web.archive.org/web/20201109031835/https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/05/nyregion/kaloyeros-cuomo-percoco-trial.html

In the ongoing trial of Dr. Kaloyeros, who is charged with wire fraud and wire fraud conspiracy, prosecutors say he was so worried about his standing with Mr. Cuomo that he hired a lobbyist with longstanding ties to the governor, and worked with that lobbyist to rig lucrative state contracts for the benefit of two firms — LPCiminelli of Buffalo and COR Development of Syracuse — whose executives had donated generously to Mr. Cuomo's campaigns.
Several witnesses in Mr. Percoco's trial said they had been told that if they tried to leave the governor's office at an inconvenient time — for example, amid an exodus of other employees that was attracting media attention — Mr. Cuomo's top aides would block their departure. Prosecutors said Mr. Percoco had threatened at least four state employees' future employment prospects.

Other witnesses testified about receiving profane or verbally abusive emails from the governor's top aides.

In Mr. Percoco's trial, Mr. Howe had testified that Mr. Cuomo had yelled at him after the demise of a construction project in Syracuse.

July 12, 2018[48] - Architect of Cuomo's Buffalo Billion Project Is Convicted in Bid-Rigging Scheme

Alain E. Kaloyeros, a principal architect of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's signature economic development initiative, was convicted on Thursday in a bid-rigging scheme that steered hundreds of millions of dollars in state contracts to favored companies in Buffalo and Syracuse.

July 14, 2018[49] - Who are the new co-hosts of Cuomo's Saturday fundraiser in Montauk? The Winklevoss brothers

48 https://web.archive.org/web/20210225232356/https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/12/nyregion/kaloyeros-guilty-buffalo-billion-cuomo.html
49 https://web.archive.org/web/20190401223821if_/https://twitter.com/shanegoldmacher/status/1016796620741140481?lang=en

In May, the Winklevoss' exchange received approval from the Cuomo administration to become the first in New York to trade zcash. In 2015 The Winklevoss' were among the first virtual currency firms to receive a charter by New York. They're now co-hosting a fundraiser for Cuomo

July 17, 2018[50] - Who Needs Small Donors When You Have Friends? Ask Gov. Cuomo

50 https://web.archive.org/web/20210223063609/https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/17/nyregion/donors-cuomo-nixon-campaign.html

But campaign disclosures on Tuesday revealed the extent to which Mr. Cuomo remains dependent on big donors — and some of the maneuvers undertaken to obscure that fact.

One donor contributed 69 times to Mr. Cuomo in the final days before the deadline — 67 of them $1 donations, driving down his average donation size. The donor, Christopher Kim, shares the same address on his filing as one of Mr. Cuomo's campaign aides, Julia Yang.

"We appreciate his enthusiasm," said Abbey Collins, a spokeswoman for Mr. Cuomo's campaign. "Going forward, we'll put measures in place to count contributions like this differently."

But Mr. Kim was just one in a line of aides, relatives, roommates, allies, appointees and lobbyists sprinkled through Mr. Cuomo's filing, giving tiny sums like $1 and $5.

Mr. Cuomo's former finance director and current adviser, Jennifer Bayer Michaels, whose firm received $126,500 from Mr. Cuomo in the filing period, donated $5.

Other small donors included the father of one of Mr. Cuomo's spokeswomen (who gave $1), the lobbyist father of Mr. Cuomo's top aide (who gave $10), as well as others who share addresses with Mr. Cuomo's paid campaign staff. Another lobbyist gave checks of $10,000, $5,000 and $50 in the period.

Jaynne C. Keyes, a Cuomo appointee to the state arts council married to a former top aide to Mr. Cuomo's father, gave Mr. Cuomo $20,000 on July 9. Days later, she followed that up with two more donations — for $5 each.

The cumulative effect of these donations was negligible: of the $6 million raised in the last six months, only 1 percent came from those donating $250 or less. All told, Mr. Cuomo earned more in interest payments on his campaign war chest (nearly $154,000) than he collected in total contributions from donors who gave less than $1,000 (just under $110,000).

Mr. Cuomo's financial edge has only expanded in recent months, as he added large contributions from powerful institutional donors such as the New York A.F.L.-C.I.O. ($65,000), the state nurses association ($64,600), and Viacom Telecommunications LLC ($50,000). Billy Joel and Alexis Joel each reported $26,992 in in-kind contributions to Mr. Cuomo, as well, this month.

One of Mr. Cuomo's largest donors in 2018 are the brothers Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, who together gave $130,000. The brothers founded a virtual currency exchange[51] in New York to trade currency like Bitcoin.

They gave $50,000 each in April. In May, the New York Department of Financial Services authorized their firm to trade a new currency, Zcash. They each gave $15,000 in June and co-hosted a fund-raiser for Mr. Cuomo in July.

51 https://web.archive.org/web/20210216234306/https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/19/technology/bitcoin-winklevoss-twins.html

Trump vs. Cuomo: The Battle for Primetime Ratings

From the onset of Covid-19, Cuomo strategically poised himself as a sort of antithesis to President Trump, an opportunity the mainstream media quickly latched onto and turned into the latest spectacle to boost their ratings. Due to that glowing initial treatment by the media, Governor Cuomo enjoyed months and months of being able to make appointments and legislative decisions that otherwise might have faced criticism and scrutinization.

That boost in his popularity was good for Governor Cuomo, and it made for entertaining television, but it created a monster. After years of insisting that "the walls were closing in on Trump" the rabid establishment weaponized anything and everything they could pertaining to President Trump's Covid response. And now, with Andrew Cuomo chosen to set the golden standard, they fought to keep public perception that way. And unfortunately, it was largely successful.

Streaming Superstar. Last April, Syracuse dot com reported[52] that in a six day period, Governor Cuomo amassed 4.7 million views across internet streams alone, via Facebook, Twitter, and Periscope. That number did not include cable TV ratings. He was a natural born star! Or so they wanted everyone to believe.

52 https://web.archive.org/web/20200401044235/https://www.syracuse.com/coronavirus/2020/03/digital-views-for-cuomos-daily-coronavirus-briefings-near-1m-a-day.html

The only person beating Governor Cuomo was President Trump, but unlike Cuomo, the mainstream media was not on his side. So they began to conspire to hide him from the public rather openly. Despite this and their efforts, he was still ahead by a long shot. So they doubled down on their efforts.

The Media Hit Piece. In a piece[53] for the *New York Times* titled, "Trump's Briefings Are a Ratings Hit. Should Networks Cover Them Live?" Michael Grynbaum says President Trump's Covid briefings were a ratings hit, which could be a dangerous thing. His briefings averaged 8.5 million viewers on cable networks at that time, and even more on streaming platforms—and those numbers were continuing to rise. On one Monday night, he had 12.2 million viewers—rivaling NFL football ratings.

He goes on to opine about how journalists struggle with how to broadcast President Trump's remarks to the nation without being able to supplement them live.

"I would stop putting those briefings on live TV — not out of spite, but because it's misinformation," the MSNBC host Rachel Maddow declared to her viewers. The same Maddow that mooned over Governor Cuomo, calling him a national leader. It is unclear at that point how much primetime media figures were aware how unfit to be the national face for Covid efforts Cuomo was. They either didn't know, or they didn't care.

Ted Koppel claimed, "The question, clearly, is whether his status as president of the United States obliges us to broadcast his every briefing live. No. No more so than you at *The Times* should be obliged to provide your readers with a daily, verbatim account."

53 https://web.archive.org/web/20200403074206/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/25/business/media/trump-coronavirus-briefings-ratings.html

It's dangerous for the mainstream media to allow you to hear the words of your president without their spin. So they opted out of allowing it to happen at all.

Media Defends Cuomo From Trump. The article continues: "Mr. Trump has also used national TV appearances to spread incendiary and unproven accusations. At a Fox News town hall on Tuesday, he read aloud a critical headline about Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York that had been published by a fringe right-wing conspiracy theory site, *The Gateway Pundit*." Clearly, criticizing Governor Cuomo was a cardinal sin for them.

The White House was critical of these decisions at the time, especially after CNN and MSNBC cut away from the final portion of one of President Trump's briefings. Judd Deere, spokesman for the White House, called the move "pretty disgraceful."

CNN responded that the network "will make our own editorial decisions," and MSNBC said it had cut away "because the information no longer appeared to be valuable to the important ongoing discussion around public health."

Bizarre that these media outlets were absolutely certain of President Trump's value to the general public, but were incapable of calling out Governor Cuomo or their colleague Chris Cuomo for the inappropriate nature of their media escapades, the gross incompetence of Andrew to protect New York's elderly, the absolutely evil nature of Cuomo's staff covering up thousands of nursing home deaths for political gain, or any of the other numerous shortcomings. Not even a passing mention.

Instead, they covered it up until they no longer could. Now the same people that appeared on television to moon over Governor Cuomo are the same pretending to be shocked at his misdeeds. It's pathetic.

The Mainstream Media Includes Conservative Media

Before recent “Me Too” allegations piled up against Cuomo, which the mainstream media used as a scapegoat, some of the only places you’d read criticism on the Governor’s performance were either right wing or far-left and progressive sites. Right-wing coverage of Cuomo has been mediocre at best. The legacy media on both sides of the fence exist to appeal to their viewers’ egos and emotions, get their clicks and views, and go home rich and happy. I am becoming increasingly disgusted with conservative outlets and reporters, not that I was terribly pleased with them to begin with.

Progressives Stepping Up. I don’t agree with aiming for a single-payer healthcare plans for the United States, but Progressives do. They are very critical of Cuomo’s Medicaid policies—which come into play big time with Covid, as it mostly affects the elderly and those in long-term care facilities. The epicenter of the scandal. I’ve genuinely read more compelling Cuomo pieces from *Jacobin* than from Fox News, Newsmax, and the rest of them combined.

In Summary (So Far)

Up until now we have covered quite extensively the media's role in shaping a positive public opinion about Governor Cuomo while simultaneously conspiring to silence and slander President Trump at every turn. Even when President Trump said things that were entirely true, such as the PPE theft, they lied and twisted the narrative anyways.

They also ignored the flagrantly improper nature of Governor Cuomo appearing alongside his brother on his CNN primetime show… and Chris Cuomo making a personal appearance during official NY state press briefings. While Governor Cuomo locked down the state of New York and forced people into economic hardship and devastating conditions that wreaked havoc on their mental health, his Covid-positive brother flouted restrictions in his exclusive Hamptons neighborhood. Meanwhile, Chris Cuomo's wife used that fame to sell detox teas and meal kits, and received house visits from Jeffrey Sachs for grocery deliveries.

We're going to narrow our focus now onto the state of New York's medical budgets and legislation, Andrew Cuomo's staff and committee appointees, the already-present Medicaid budget deficit and the plan to curb spending on long-term care residents, and the tangled, corrupt web he wove around himself to secure political leverage, favor, and funding from hospital and nursing home

executives and powerful lobbying groups. It’s a lot to take in, but we’ll take it one thing at a time. It’s about to get messy.

Cuomo's Blood Money

blood money

n.

1. Money paid by a killer as compensation to the next of kin of a murder victim.
2. Money gained at the cost of another's life or livelihood.

Before Covid-19 began, Andrew Cuomo's 2020 spending plan was a hot topic for discussion in the state of New York, because his current State Medicaid plan was pushing New York into a financial deficit that showed no signs of slowing down. "The remarkable thing about the state's multi-billion-dollar Medicaid crisis is that it is almost entirely the result of the Cuomo administration's own actions," wrote[54] Bill Hammond for *Empire Center*.

What is Medicaid? Medicaid is a joint federal-state program administered in New York by the State Department of Health. The federal government pays for at least half of program costs, and states are responsible for the remainder. New York mandates that local governments (New York City and the 57 other counties) pay for a fixed portion, averaging approximately 10% of the total program costs.

In a span of four years, wherein there was no economic downturn or drastic changes in policy to use as a scapegoat, the problem lies in a spike in spending, not a shortfall in revenue.

54 https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/cuomos-self-inflicted-crisis/

Under the Affordable Care Act, New York saw a drastic increase in enrollees, bringing the total up to approximately 6 million people—a little less than one-third of the state's population.

Medicaid comprises[55] more than 1 out of every 3 dollars spent by the State's budget every fiscal year, approaching a total of $80 billion annually in 2020. If done *correctly*[56], Medicaid programs can help cut costs across the board for medical expenses. The caveat being the word "correctly." Governor Cuomo's Medicaid financial woes have been snowballing for years. He has not been managing the budget correctly at all.

Bad Before It Began. In mid December 2019, Governor Cuomo made news for starting out 2020 with a $6.1 billion[57] budget gap—the largest since 2011-2012—caused largely by rising Medicaid costs. Experts estimated that if spending trends for the state continued, the deficit would rise to $8.5 billion by 2023, $3.9 billion of which would be Medicaid-related.

The year's increases resulted from the $15-an-hour minimum-wage increase for health-care workers, weak spending caps, political deals made by Cuomo for the 2018 election, a hike in reimbursement rates for hospitals and nursing homes, and more.

Minimum Wage. In 2016, Cuomo and his State legislature enacted a multi-year increase[58] in the state minimum wage from $9/hour to as high as $15/hour in New York City and downstate suburbs, and $12.50 in upstate New York. The cost of those higher wages was grossly underestimated, and has been far higher than projected—by 28% or more ($1.5 billion).

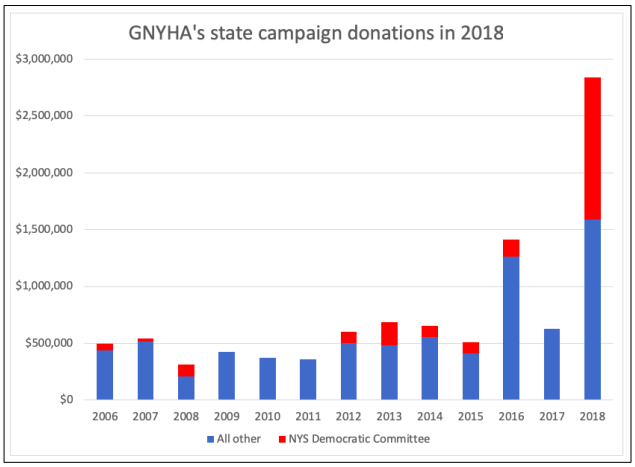
55 https://web.archive.org/web/20200325155404/https://cbcny.org/research/overdue-bills
56 https://web.archive.org/web/20201116203457/https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-medicaid-redesign-efforts-saving-taxpayers-billons#close
57 https://web.archive.org/web/20200101031618/https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-12-13/cuomo-runs-up-6-1-billion-n-y-deficit-despite-strong-economy
58 https://web.archive.org/web/20201125033024/http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/30/nyregion/governor-voices-confidence-on-reaching-state-budget-deal-with-wage-increase.html

Weakened Spending Caps. Initially, Governor Cuomo capped State Medicaid spending to the 10-year average of the medical inflation rate, which was effective at first. However, Cuomo began making loopholes[59] for the caps, including for the aforementioned minimum wage hike, which increased spending at unsustainable rates.

Political Deals. In 2018, when Governor Cuomo was challenged by Progressive candidate Cynthia Nixon, he spent significantly more for his re-election campaign than he'd ever done before. It proved effective—he won by a massive margin—but those who contributed to that victory didn't do it for nothing. Two of the largest contributors[60] were from 1199SEIU[61], a very influential labor union with contracts with 48 hospitals[62] in New York, and the union's lobbying ally, The Greater New York Hospital Association.

CLIENT NAME	COMPENSATION & EXPENSES
1199 SEIU LABOR MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES, INC., HEALTHCARE EDUCATION PROJECT	$3,635,901
GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, INC.	$2,287,383

The **GNYHA** opposes the New York Health Act, which would establish a single-payer health care system in the state, so it had deep pockets for those who will keep it the way it is. Governor Cuomo is their guy. They keep him in office. He keeps them rich.



59 https://web.archive.org/web/20191017181957/https://www.empirecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Busting-the-Cap-Final.pdf
60 https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/who-benefited-from-medicaid-hikes/
61 https://jcope.ny.gov/news/jcope-releases-2018-mid-year-lobbying-data
62 https://www.empirecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Spreadsheet.pdf

In fact, I would estimate that as long as the **GNYHA** and union groups have any say in the matter, even Progressives like AOC would back off her "Medicare for All" platform if their leaders began campaigning against her. But more on all of this in a minute.

Medicaid Rates Increased. On October 31, 2018, Governor Cuomo authorized increased rates of reimbursement[63] for long-term care facilities and hospitals[64]. In a notice published with very little pomp and circumstance the DoS describes a 2 percent increase in the operating component of Medicaid's hospital inpatient rates, and a 1.5 percent increase in the operating component of nursing home rates.

Sixteen years before, in 2002, Andrew Cuomo learned not to go against the hospital unions. He spoke out against then-governor Republican George Pataki[65] negotiating a multi billion-dollar health care plan that increased salaries for the 1199SEIU behind closed doors[66]. Then-union leader, Dennis Rivera, publicly berated Cuomo for not supporting it, and Pataki would go on to win the gubernatorial race handily. The hospital and nursing home unions and their lobbyist groups are the real kingmakers in New York. It has been that way for years.

Cuomo's catering paid off politically, if not financially, and he received 1199SEIU's endorsement for re-election on February 22, 2018.

1199SEIU ENDORSES CUOMO FOR RE-ELECTION

February 22, 2018

New York, NY – 1199 SEIU today enthusiastically endorsed Governor Andrew M. Cuomo for re-election citing the Governor's leadership in protecting working families, and his commitment to strengthening worker protections even as President Trump and Washington Republicans are waging an unprecedented war on worker rights and healthcare access.

63 https://www.empirecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Summary.pdf
64 https://docs.dos.ny.gov/info/register/2018/oct31/misc.pdf
65 https://web.archive.org/web/20200325150836if_/https://nypost.com/2002/01/16/the-750m-handshake-gov-gives-health-workers-a-boot/
66 https://web.archive.org/web/20150527212149/http://www.nytimes.com/2002/01/19/nyregion/union-chief-assails-cuomo-and-mccall.html

The 2002 loss is largely seen as one of Cuomo's most humiliating defeats in politics. He not only insulted union leaders who turned on him, he also invoked 9/11 for a political jab, which backfired in a major way.

Cuomo insulted Pataki's leadership[67] during 9/11, stating that, "There was one leader for 9/11: it was Rudy Giuliani. If it defined George Pataki, it defined George Pataki as not being the leader. He stood behind the leader. He held the leader's coat."

This did not win him many friends, considering less than a year had passed at the time. Most considered it a cheap shot for political gain.

Smoke & Mirrors. Governor Cuomo has a history of using slight-of-hand style tricks to make his budgets appear healthier than they are. Part of his plan to cover the rate increase in 2018 involved a three-month pressure campaign[68] to receive $2 billion from the sale of Fidelis Care, a nonprofit Catholic Church health organization, that included overt and implied threats to seize the funds, block the sale or both. The Catholic organization found itself without many allies in Albany, and Cuomo eventually won out[69].

Whereas a press release[70] at the time said the $2 billion would go into a "Health Care Shortfall Fund," where it would be used "to ensure the continued availability and expansion of funding for quality health services to New York State residents and to mitigate risks associated with the loss of federal funds," the actual budget legislation called it a "Health Care Transformation Fund."

67 https://web.archive.org/web/20210314184528/https://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/18/nyregion/cuomo-s-criticism-of-pataki-s-role-after-9-11-sets-off-furor.html
68 https://archive.is/MvfFV
69 https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/a-troubling-deal-on-fidelis/
70 https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-highlights-fy-2019-budget

Looking into the budget proposal for 2018, in section FFF, it states: the funds "shall be available for transfer to any other fund of of the state as authorized and directed by the director of the budget"—in other words, at the discretion of a gubernatorial appointee.

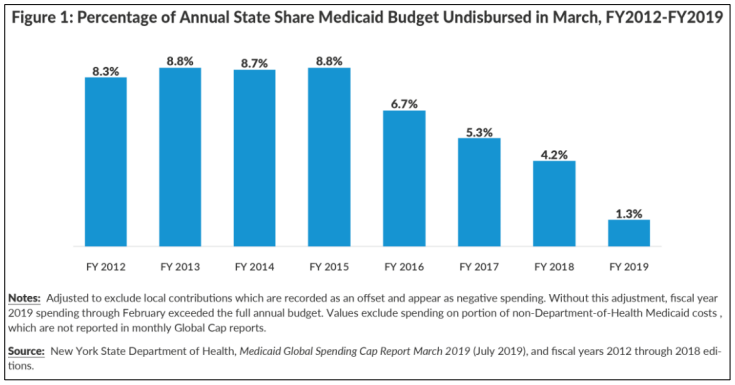
> 4. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, moneys of the health care transformation fund shall be available for transfer to any other fund of the state as authorized and directed by the director of the budget to support health care delivery, including for capital investment, debt retirement or restructuring, housing and other social determinants of health, or transitional operating support to health care providers.

This is not the first and will not be the last time we see Cuomo amending budget proposals to reflect legislation that benefits his own office or his union and lobby funders—even at the detriment of his precious Medicaid program. This campaign was financed, yet again, by SE1199 and the **GNYHA**.

Where that money actually ended up is unclear, as Governor Cuomo's Medicaid deficit snowball kept growing, and none of his plans to make it stop seemed to have an impact.

Smoke & Mirrors Deferred Again. In March 2019, the State deferred a payment of $1.7 billion until April 1—the beginning of the next fiscal year. This is not a one-time anomaly that happened in a vacuum. According to CBCNY, "the State deferred payments in previous years to remain within budgeted spending levels, but the magnitude of the latest occurrence is unprecedented and obscures the State's fiscal standing and outlook."

Typically, the amount of undispersed funds in the last month of the FY should be as close to 8.33% as possible (which would equal 1/12 of the year's funds). Starting in FY 2016, that



remaining budget amount declined, and by FY 2019 only 1.3% of the year's funds remained by March.

The deferrals and shifting of funds means that current financial plans do not account for or reflect the true costs of Medicaid for New York. If it did, it would substantially increase the state's budget gaps.

Why Is This Happening? Most of these issues should have been foreseeable. For all the talking and performative capitulating Governor Cuomo does in the public eye about the Medicaid budgets, his private behavior is substantially different. But he knew this was coming—the minimum wage was enacted in 2016, HE created the loopholes in his spending caps to circumvent them, and he was the one who enacted the rate increase in 2018, so he should have known what would happen afterward.

The one financial factor that seems to have genuinely caught Andrew Cuomo and the State by surprise is the exploding costs of long-term care—especially in the form of non-medical "personal care" provided to people with disabilities in their homes[71].

Is Cuomo a Progressive? Governor Cuomo repeatedly touts himself as a Progressive Democrat, although most Progressives would vehemently disagree. In 2018, New York saw six[72] New York Senate incumbents[73] ousted and replaced by actual leftists, Progressives, and Democratic Socialists. Governor Cuomo up against Cynthia Nixon, but he beat her handily. He dismissed her celebrity campaign as "some Twittersphere dialogue where I tweet you, you tweet me and between the two of us we think we have a wave. Not even a ripple[74]."

71 https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/cuomos-self-inflicted-crisis/
72 https://web.archive.org/web/20210202204324/https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/13/nyregion/state-senate-election-results-idc-klein.html
73 https://web.archive.org/web/20201207145435/https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/08/nyregion/breakaway-group-in-new-york-senate-becomes-an-island-of-power.html
74 https://web.archive.org/web/20210202204309/https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/14/nyregion/andrew-cuomo-victory-election-nixon.html

(Don't) Tax The Rich. In January 2017, Cuomo unveiled that year's budget proposal, and during the press briefing stated[75]: "We do not cut taxes for millionaires. We do cut taxes for the middle class." This was in a pre-Ocasio-Cortez New York City, without rabid Progressives flying "Eat the Rich!" banners at events and other such Socialist messaging. See her $58 "Tax The Rich" sweatshirt.

As more actual Progressives moved into seats in New York, Governor Cuomo seemed to double down on his (at least public-facing) statements about not cutting taxes for the rich, but in February of 2019, he said something quite different. Even with the new blood in New York's government that would publicly chastise him for it. Facing another bombshell blow[76] to his budget—this time a $2.3 billion loss in state income tax revenues—Cuomo said, "I don't believe raising taxes on the rich. That would be the worst thing to do. You would just expand the shortfall. God forbid if the rich leave." In the same meeting he claimed one percent of top income earners provide 46% of the State income tax revenue.

Wealthy people are leaving New York in droves, and even more have since then. Cuomo's budget woes keep getting worse and worse. He knows if he makes a mistake that can be weaponized, by either side of the political aisle, his office is toast. Therefore, his answer is typically more backroom deals. Cuomo has more effectively consolidated and wielded power in Albany than any recent governor. And there has been very little anyone else can do about it.

75 https://web.archive.org/web/20210202204305/https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/17/nyregion/andrew-cuomo-new-york-state-budget.html
76 https://nypost.com/2019/02/04/cuomo-announces-income-tax-revenues-have-dropped-by-2-3b/

Cuomo's plan to tilt Albany's balance of power

By LIZ BENJAMIN | 02/23/2015 05:20 AM EST

Keep in mind, everything mentioned thus far pertaining to his budgets and politics has not included Covid yet. This is how out of control it was before a pandemic blindsided the United States and set up its epicenter in New York early on. If you think Cuomo was out of control before he was lauded in the media for a year and could do no wrong, just wait a bit longer, it's going to get worse.

Cuomo's Kryptonite. This is an area where Governor Cuomo is the most vulnerable. Over the last ten years, he fortified his place in Albany, consolidated power, surrounded himself with aides and secretaries that are militantly in lockstep with him, and he has made the position of governor of New York a powerhouse. If he loses it, it's over.

How Can He Fix It? When facing gaps in the budget this substantial, there are two main options, which are not mutually exclusive:

1. **Reduce spending for Medicaid.** However, required cuts alone may not be achievable without negatively affecting patient care and ability to deliver services. Nonetheless, whatever avenues that can be taken to reduce per-enrollee spending should be explored and enacted wherever permitted.
2. **Reduce planned spending for other services:** As gutting Medicaid is neither wise nor feasible for Governor Cuomo, the State should explore other spending reductions to cover the rest of the gap. Cutting inefficient programs, re-assessing budgets

for non-essential projects, and a combination of other options together could help achieve the goal.

Fake Budgets, Fake News. Since 2016, per-enrollee costs have increased dramatically, despite program enrollment remaining fairly flat. From FY 2016-2018, costs per enrollee rose by nearly 16%, from $9,973 to $11,529. To calculate FY 2019 per-enrollee spending, that deferred $1.7 billion payment should be added back to its appropriate due date. When you do that, costs rose from FY 2018-2019 another 8% to $12,506. By deferring the payment, the reported cost per enrollee was listed at $12,224.

Table 1: New York State Medicaid Enrollment, Total Spending, and Per-Enrollee Spending, FY2011-FY2019

	Enrollment		Total Spending		Per-Enrollee Spending	
	Count	% Change	Dollars (in millions)	% Change	Dollars	% Change
FY 2011	4,697,484		$53,717		$11,435	
FY 2012	4,857,979	3%	$54,434	1%	$11,205	-2%
FY 2013	5,068,593	4%	$52,856	-3%	$10,428	-7%
FY 2014	5,296,127	4%	$54,784	4%	$10,344	-1%
FY 2015	5,872,561	11%	$60,572	11%	$10,314	0%
FY 2016	6,167,739	5%	$61,508	2%	$9,973	-3%
FY 2017	6,037,415	-2%	$65,481	6%	$10,846	9%
FY 2018	6,016,046	0%	$69,358	6%	$11,529	6%
FY 2019 *(reported)*	6,040,923	0%	$73,846	6%	$12,224	6%
FY 2019 *(re-based)*	6,040,923	0%	$75,546	9%	$12,506	8%

Notes: Values for total spending for fiscal year 2011 through 2019 are actual reported disbursements. Fiscal year 2019 values for re-based spending are adjusted to include $1.7 billion in deferred State share payments. An upward adjustment of $1.4 billion to the State share of spending in fiscal year 2019 reported spending is also made to account for fringe benefit costs of mental hygiene agencies which were subject to an accounting change effective in fiscal year 2019.

Sources: New York State Division of the Budget, *Enacted Budget Financial Plan for FY 2020* (May 2019), and fiscal year 2012 through 2019 editions; and New York State Department of Health, "Medicaid Program Enrollment by Month: Beginning 2009" (accessed August 1, 2019), https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Medicaid-Program-Enrollment-by-Month-Beginning-200/m4hz-kzn3.

Medicaid Redesign Team II. Cuomo set a vague but ambitious goal to achieve $2.5 billion[77] in State Medicaid savings in FY 21 by focusing on "issues associated with long-term care" because "enrollment and spending in managed long-term care has accelerated dramatically over the last three years." Even after Covid began, that goal did not change, and in fact he doubled down on it. There were other options to lessen the deficit, but he continued to focus on the financial burden driven by the elderly and assisted living facilities.

77 https://web.archive.org/web/20200214083414/https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/index.htm#close

Governor Cuomo and his administration stalled on presenting any detailed solutions for Medicaid budget problems before January 29, 2020, when those with major roles within the NY State Medicaid program testified during a joint Senate/Assembly budget hearing. In typical Cuomo fashion, he announced[78] a rebuilt Medicaid Redesign Team would submit findings and recommendations by April 1 for the Fiscal Year 2021 Enacted Budget. The MRT II team is chock full of hospital and nursing home executives, associates with the 1199SEIU union, and the **GNYHA**. As always.

REFORMING OUR MEDICAID SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE

In 2011, Governor Cuomo created the Medicaid Redesign Team - or MRT - after unsustainable Medicaid spending contributed to a $10 billion budget deficit. The MRT developed a series of recommendations to immediately lower costs and revamp and improve the program. Today, 95 percent of New Yorkers now have health insurance and 6 million New Yorkers are covered under Medicaid.

Although the State shoulders more than the $20 billion cost of Medicaid, local governments are responsible for determining eligibility and administering certain programs. Because local governments are no longer responsible for the cost of their programs, there is no financial incentive to control costs and localities have failed to adequately monitor their programs, leading to overspending. Other factors, such as the cost of managed long term care, the $15 minimum wage, increasing enrollment and support to distressed hospitals, have also contributed to the increasing costs of the Medicaid program.

This year, the Governor will address the Medicaid shortfall with a new Medicaid Redesign Team - or MRT II - co-chaired by Michael Dowling, president and chief executive officer of Northwell Health, and labor leader Dennis Rivera. The MRT II will reform the State's Medicaid program, preserve benefits and find $2.5 billion in savings. The MRT II will work to find industry efficiencies or additional industry revenue with zero impact to beneficiaries and report its findings in time for the April 1st budget deadline. Additionally, the Governor will empower the Medicaid Inspector General to root out waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicaid system. The state will commit to paying the entire increase in Medicaid costs for local governments as long as the local governments stay within the 2 percent property tax cap and control Medicaid costs to 3 percent growth per year - Medicaid growth for 2021 is projected to be 3.0 percent, allowing localities to increase without cutting State funding. Any local government that does not stay within those limits will be required to pay the total spending growth.

Medicaid Redesign Team II

Members of Cuomo Medicaid Redesign Team include[79]:

- Michael Dowling[80]: President and CEO of Northwell Health; board member of the **GNYHA**; and board member of the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS)
- Dennis Rivera[81]: Former chair of 1199SEIU Healthcare—the same union boss that publicly berated Cuomo for going against him in 2002; partner with the **GNYHA**
- Steven Corwin[82]: President and CEO of New York Presbyterian; past chair of HANYS; past chair of **GNYHA**
- Howard Zucker[83]: Commissioner of Health for New York State

78 https://web.archive.org/web/20200331215817/https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-members-medicaid-redesign-team-ii
79 https://web.archive.org/web/20200331215817/https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-members-medicaid-redesign-team-ii
80 https://web.archive.org/web/20210217094039/https://www.northwell.edu/about/leadership/michael-dowling
81 https://www.worldcongress.com/speakerBio.cfm?speakerID=1883&confcode=NW700
82 https://www.nyp.org/governance-leadership/senior-leadership
83 https://www.health.ny.gov/commissioner/bio/

As always, Cuomo stacked the deck with the most influential and powerful people that he could—people that he has consolidated power with, worked hand-in-hand to crush political opponents, and benefited each other financially and politically whenever possible.

Cuomo's Safety Net. Included in the fine print[84] of Cuomo's Medicaid reform proposal as well: local governments must contain their Medicaid costs to 3% per year, or else it will have to cover the total cost of spending growth. 3% was the already-projected increase in spending, which would all but ensure the end of the FY would see local governments sending funds back to Albany—for a program mandated at the state level, no less.

The Elderly Elephant In The Room. New York's total over-65 population climbed by over 24% in the last 10 years—a major unforeseen contributor to Cuomo's Medicaid budget crisis. Elderly patients in long-term care facilities were a large portion of the reason why costs were continuing to skyrocket, aside from Cuomo's own self-inflicted spikes in the budget gap. Of the $6 billion plus budget gap, half of it was solely due to Medicaid—a majority of that half relating to the much higher costs of long-term facility care, which had increased by nearly 25% in the previous four years.

The estimated costs per resident being tossed around in the budget discussions[85] in late 2019 and early 2020 seem quite ominous now. Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz said the average costs in 2019 for his county were $3,572 for a child, $9,876 for an adult, and $18,583 for a senior citizen. After the Affordable Care Act passed, Poloncarz said the number of people on Medicaid in his county alone climbed from 231,000 to nearly 290,000.

Then Came Covid-19

84 https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/press/2020/pr-eBudgetfy21.html
85 https://buffalonews.com/news/local/the-medicaid-muddle-cuomos-budget-proposal-creates-worry-and-confusion/article_eae699e0-1fa3-590e-97e6-b84f0dcb9fa2.html

Prior to Covid-19, media coverage on Andrew Cuomo was fair. Fair enough at least. Most articles spoke about him with a begrudging level of admiration at his ability to crush opponents and bend legislature to his will, but it was dissected and written about quite thoroughly.

Post-Covid, pre-scandal, the reporting on Governor Cuomo reached a sickening level, as was discussed at the beginning of this report briefly. The ethics of his antics with his brother were ignored (or raved about), his actions were seen as heroic and bold, and his perceived ability to "handle" President Trump was everything the media had ever wanted in a protagonist. Sure, they'd propped up plenty of adversaries to President Trump in the past, but all of them would eventually fold.

I mention this again, because as we start dissecting Cuomo's behavior during Covid, I can't help but wonder if perhaps the reporting on him had been a little more discerning, and if the media machine hadn't made criticizing him a near-impossibility without being swarmed by their legion of empty-headed blue checks and talking heads… could this have been stopped sooner?

The absolute level of insanity and derangement of the mainstream media and the resulting brainwashing of the home stuck citizens of the United States should be considered a crime in itself. Even now, I know that by publishing this I am putting a target on by back, even though I have gone to painstaking lengths to verify and source this information to a level I've not done before.

At any rate, let's dig in.

The Cuomo Story. Perhaps the most disturbing thing about this past year when it comes to Cuomo is that while he initiated a massacre of

elderly and long-term care residents in the state, he was simultaneously writing his own reflective memoir about it—and he seemingly had no qualms with making himself out to be a hero.

One of the things Cuomo was repeatedly praised for in 2020 was his ability to negotiate and "get the best of" President Trump (in the the media's eyes at least).

Cuomo & Trump. In the first article[86] I started this report with, published by the *New York Times* on April, 3, 2020, the author compares the two: "Mr. Trump and Mr. Cuomo have known each other for decades and share similar histories and traits: Both are Queens natives, sons of powerful fathers, with a need to prove themselves. Both are known as brash and demanding bosses, and both like the spotlight."

'"They're both combative egomaniacs," said Mike Murphy, a veteran Republican strategist and a Trump critic. "But Cuomo has the advantage of being the highly competent combative egomaniac."'

They *almost* get it. Whereas with President Trump, you never had to guess what he was doing behind the scenes, with Cuomo you got all the outward-facing bravado while behind closed doors deals were being made and legislation was being signed that would doom thousands upon thousands of New Yorkers to death. In fact, the legislation and amendment to the year's budget that we're about to cover had already happened by the time this article was written. And yet, no mention of it was to be found anywhere. It's a human interest piece, not an information one.

86 https://web.archive.org/web/20200403093105/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/03/nyregion/cuomo-trump-coronavirus.html

A lot of "journalism" in the age of Covid became just insanely biased opinion writing. It's not a shock that people stopped reading it and media outlets had to lay off droves of writers. In the middle of unknowns and looming threats nobody knew anything about, they weren't covering it. Not really.

First Case. According to Cuomo's book, the first recorded case in the state of New York was on March 1. And while I find that to be mathematically impossible, that really was the point in which politicians decided to fire up their media teams and start grandstanding for the general public to prove they were going to help fix things. Cuomo was no different.

> When my cellphone rang late on March 1, I hadn't turned it off, but I didn't get to it in time. Moments later, the landline rang. It was Melissa DeRosa, secretary to the governor and my top aide. Brilliant, tough, indefatigable, and widely respected, she is the quarterback on my team and is responsible for managing all the pieces.
>
> "Governor, I'm sorry to stalk you with the multiple calls, but we just received a confirmation from Wadsworth." This was the New York State Department of Health's lab in Albany. "New York has its first case of coronavirus—a health-care worker who just returned to New York City from Iran. We believe the incident is isolated. I have Dr. Zucker on the other line. Can I conference him in?"

Just days before on February 26, Cuomo made the understatement of the year[87], "It is highly probable that we will have people in New York State who test positive."

By March 16, Cuomo had honed his skill at making the media and general public alike fall for his emotionally-vulnerable shtick. In a conference call, a *New York Times* article titled, "Andrew Cuomo Is the Control Freak We Need Right Now" reported him saying, "A crisis shows you a person's soul.

> THE MEDIA EQUATION
>
> ***Andrew Cuomo Is the Control Freak We Need Right Now***
>
> In ordinary times, Mr. Cuomo's relentlessness and bullying drive New Yorkers crazy. In the age of the coronavirus, they soothe our battered nerves.

87 https://web.archive.org/web/20200524160515/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/26/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-cuomo.html?smid=tw-nytimes&smtyp=cur

It shows you what they're made of. The weaknesses explode and the strengths are, uh, emboldened."

Blame Game. The mainstream media quickly made President Trump into Public Enemy #1 about anything and everything that went wrong in 2020, despite the initial casual response being largely due to the very same experts that the media would later praise for their shining brilliance. How President Trump was supposed to know, given the "expert's" advice, what was going to happen is beyond me.

He mandated airport screenings[88] on January 17th and suspended entry to the United States from immigrants that might be carrying Covid by January 31[89]. If "listen to the experts" for the mainstream media means Dr. Fauci, then Dr. Fauci said[90] on January 21, "This is not a major threat to the people of the United States and this is not something that the citizens of the United States should be worried about right now."

Video – Dr. Fauci on February 29, 2020:

88 https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0117-coronavirus-screening.html
89 https://web.archive.org/web/20200211045655/https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/
90 https://saraacarter.com/jan-flashback-dr-fauci-said-coronavirus-is-not-a-major-threat-to-the-people-of-the-united-states/

"No Need to Change Lifestyle Yet"

At the very end of February, Dr. Fauci insisted on USA Today, "That right now there is no need anything that you are doing on a day by day basis. Right now the risk is still low."

Health & Fitness

Flu Bigger Threat To NYC Than Coronavirus, Experts Say

There have been 8,602 cases of the flu in NYC in the past week, while there has never been a confirmed case of the new coronavirus.

Adam Nichols, Patch Staff

Posted Fri, Feb 7, 2020 at 2:23 pm ET

Article after article[91] in January and a large portion of February repeatedly insisted that flu was the bigger threat—something that President Trump also said, and was later relentlessly bashed for.

Worth mentioning, when the initial outbreak began in China and spread to the United States and around the world, the mainstream media and the Democrats were trying to impeach President Trump—the trial began on January 16, 2020[92]. President Trump mandated airport screenings the next day. January 21st brought the first known case to the US. January 23 the Democrat House Managers presented their opening arguments for impeachment, which lasted nine hours. They weren't concerned with Covid whatsoever.

On January 31, President Trump ceased flights between the US and China, despite being told it was racist and xenophobic. On February 4, 2020, President Trump spoke about Coronavirus during his State of the Union speech—which Nancy Pelosi ripped up. At that point in time, most politicians hadn't even spoken about it publicly or

91 https://web.archive.org/web/20200211083730if_/https://www.healthline.com/health-news/dont-freak-out-about-the-coronavirus-just-yet

92 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YERX6ko7GZs&ab_channel=SenatorTedCruz

acknowledged its existence. They say to trust the science and trust the experts, but the science and the experts dragged their feet until the 11th hour.

A Quick Timeline of Statements and Articles:

- **January 21, 2020[93] – Dr. Fauci:** "This is not a major threat to the people in the United States and it is not something that the citizens of the United States right now should be worried about."
- **January 24, 2020[94] – Kaiser Health News:** "Something Far Deadlier Than The Wuhan Virus Lurks Near You" (Referring to seasonal flu.)
- **January 27, 2020[95] – Dr. Oxiris Barbot (NYC Health Commissioner):** People "who had recently traveled from Wuhan were not being urged to self-quarantine or avoid large public gatherings." "There is no reason not to take the subway, not to take the bus, not to go out to your favorite restaurant, and certainly not to miss the parade next Sunday."
- **January 29, 2020[96] – Wired:** "We should deescalate the war on coronavirus." See below as well.

> Then there are the demands for action—any action—to show that something is being done. The border health checks that have been introduced around the globe have at best a 20 percent chance of detecting an infected person. Face masks make little difference to the chances of picking up the infection in ordinary social interaction; the virus is so small that it goes through the fabric or round the edges.

- **February 3, 2020[97] – The Washington Post:** "Why we should be wary of the aggressive government response to coronavirus"
- **February 3, 2020 – Dr. Oxiris Barbot:** "We are encouraging New Yorkers to go about their everyday lives and suggest practicing everyday precautions that we do through the flu season."
- **February 5, 2020[98] – The New York Times:** Who Says It's Not Safe to Travel to China? The coronavirus travel ban is unjust and doesn't work anyway." "The coronavirus outbreak

93 https://saraacarter.com/jan-flashback-dr-fauci-said-coronavirus-is-not-a-major-threat-to-the-people-of-the-united-states/
94 https://khn.org/news/flu-far-deadlier-than-wuhan-virus/
95 https://archive.is/PmiXi
96 https://web.archive.org/web/20200130002952/https://www.wired.com/story/opinion-we-should-deescalate-the-war-on-the-coronavirus/
97 https://archive.is/TbpvY
98 https://web.archive.org/web/20200205205003/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/05/opinion/china-travel-coronavirus.html

seems defined by two opposing forces: the astonishing efficiency with which the travel industry connects the world and a political moment dominated by xenophobic rhetoric and the building of walls."

- **February 24, 2020 – The Atlantic:** "Most cases are not life threatening." "If we're putting all our hopes in a vaccine as being the answer, we're in trouble."

HEALTH

You're Likely to Get the Coronavirus

As the virus spreads, it's becoming evident that infected people may have mild symptoms, or none at all.

JAMES HAMBLIN 10:39 AM ET

- **February 24, 2020[99] – Nancy Pelosi:** Urged people to visit San Francisco's Chinatown. "That's what we're trying to do today is to say everything is fine here. Come because precautions have been taken. The city is on top of the situation."
- **March 2, 2020 – Bill de Blasio:** "…I'm encouraging New Yorkers to go on with your lives + get out on the town despite Coronavirus…"

Bill de Blasio
@BilldeBlasio

Follow

Since I'm encouraging New Yorkers to go on with your lives + get out on the town despite Coronavirus, I thought I would offer some suggestions. Here's the first: thru Thurs 3/5 go see "The Traitor" @FilmLinc. If "The Wire" was a true story + set in Italy, it would be this film.

5:16 PM - 2 Mar 2020

- **March 2, 2020[100] – Andrew Cuomo:** "[T]he general risk remains low in New York.""No reason for anxiety."

99 https://sharylattkisson.com/2021/03/a-year-ago-top-officials-urged-people-to-congregate-in-crowds-not-wear-masks/
100 https://web.archive.org/web/20200306010731/https://www.axios.com/new-york-first-coronavirus-case-cuomo-risk-low-7eafa8d9-5148-4fbc-93ae-42affa09c313.html

- **March 6, 2020[101] - U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams:** "What we want most of America to know is that you're not at high risk for getting coronavirus, and if you do get it you are likely to recover. Ninety-eight, 99 percent of people are going to fully recover."
- **March 8, 2020[102] – Dr. Anthony Fauci:** "There's no reason to be walking around with a mask."
- **March 8, 2020[103] – CDC and WHO:** "The virus is still much less widespread than annual flu epidemics, which cause up to 5 million severe cases around the world and up to 650,000 deaths annually, according to the WHO."
- **March 19, 2020[104] – WHO:** "Wearing medical masks when not indicated may result in unnecessary costs and procurement burdens and create a false sense of security that can lead to the neglect of other essential measures, such as hand hygiene practices. Further, using a mask incorrectly may hamper its effectiveness in reducing the risk of transmission."

> Wearing a medical mask is one of the prevention measures that can limit the spread of certain respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. However, the **use of a mask alone is insufficient** to provide an adequate level of protection, and other measures should also be adopted. If masks are used, they must be combined with hand hygiene and other IPC measures to prevent human-to-human transmission of COVID-19. WHO has developed guidance for home care[1] and health care settings[2] on IPC strategies for use when COVID-19 is suspected.

- **March 20, 2020[105] – New York Times:** "Is Our Fight Against Coronavirus Worse Than the Disease?" "…as much as 99% of active cases in the general population are 'mild' and do not require specific medical treatment. The small percentage of

101 https://www.foxnews.com/media/risk-of-coronavirus-remains-low-most-people-will-not-need-hospitalization
102 https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-fauci-outdated-video-masks/fact-checkoutdated-video-of-fauci-saying-theres-no-reason-to-be-walking-around-with-a-mask-idUSKBN26T2TR
103 https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fauci-says-anything-is-possible-when-asked-about-widespread-coronavirus-quarantine
104 https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331493/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_Masks-2020.2-eng.pdf?sequence=14&isAllowed=y
105 https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/14/health/coronavirus-elderly-protection.html

cases that do require such services are highly concentrated among those age 60 and older, and further so the older people are."

- **March 23, 2020[106] – Andrew Cuomo:** "Many people will get the virus, but few will be truly endangered. Hold both of those facts in your hands: Many will get it, up to 80 percent may get it, but few are truly endangered and we know who they are."
- **March 24, 2020[107] – Andrew Cuomo:** "It is about the vulnerable. It's not about 95% of us. It's about a few percent who are vulnerable. That's all this is about. Bring down that anxiety, bring down that fear, bring down that paranoia."
- **March 27, 2020[108] – Dr. Peter Hotez:** "Historically travel bans tend not to work very well, they tend to be counter productive."
- **March 31, 2020[109] – The New York Times:** "Both the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have repeatedly said that ordinary citizens do not need to wear masks unless they are sick and coughing."

> "You don't want to take masks away from the health care providers who are in a real and present danger of getting infected," Dr. Fauci, a member of the task force, said on CNN on Tuesday morning.

106 https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-photos-rush-transcript-amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-announces-0
107 https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-photos-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-new-york-love-wins-and-it-will-win-again
108 https://news.grabien.com/story-flashback-nyc-health-commissioner-urged-new-yorkers-gather-p
109 https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/31/health/cdc-masks-coronavirus.html

Video - Bill Maher Calls Out "Fear Porn"

The video above features Bill Maher blasting the mainstream media for peddling fear porn, such as the headline from the *New York Times*, "Braced For Apocalyptic Surge, New York Avoids Worst, So Far." In an article where everything was going much better than expected—the media was still ready to spin Americans into a panicked state.

In another headline containing the phrase "It's Terrifying," Maher reveals that the quote came from an event planner in California… not an expert or someone with scientific credentials.

Even Fauci, "the expert" played up and down the severity of Covid, depending on who his audience was. In a congressional testimony[110]

110 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DekzGCJhJw

he said Covid "is 10 times more lethal than the seasonal flu," which would be around 1%. In an academic paper[111], that most Americans wouldn't read, he wrote, "[T]he case fatality rate may be considerably less than 1%. This suggests that the overall clinical consequences of COVID-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza."

With all of those quotes, context is key. Usually following anything meant to ease the minds of their audience, Cuomo/Fauci/etc., would say something along the lines of, "but it could get worse at any time." Which, yeah, of course it could. Playing all angles so you can't be proven wrong isn't exactly expert leadership, here though.

111 https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe2002387?fbclid=IwAR3psHRYCZL1uIMKU2cJuSrpcc7SCs7kAIjjfDCmXqG_bOjcWd2Li-xXZHs

Back to Cuomo

The public-facing Andrew Cuomo spoke plainly about Covid, and even a bit harshly at times—something that would be admirable if it were someone else—but behind closed doors Cuomo's Medicaid team was still working on how to solve their massive deficit they headed into 2020 with. They were also writing some crucial amendments to their FY 2020 budget proposal.

Despite everything going on, Cuomo and the MRT moved forward with plans to slash the budget.

On March 19, 2020, the MRT team submitted their executive summary[112] of proposals: $200 million was slated to be cut from Consumer Directed Personal Assistance, which allows elderly or disabled New Yorkers to hire their own home care assistants[113]. But the biggest savings come from across-the-board cuts to health care providers, including $400 million from the state's hospitals.

By that point in time, one in five[114] New Yorkers had either had their hours cut back drastically or had lost their jobs. Over 13% of New Yorkers are healthcare workers. Not only did Cuomo decide to move forward with slashing the State Medicaid budget to ribbons during a

112 https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/docs/2020-03-19_executive_summary_of_proposals.pdf
113 https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-the-worst-time-to-slash-medicaid-20200326-rnw6avzcvjgpzl3pn24me5ba3a-story.html
114 http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NPR_PBS-NewsHour_Marist-Poll_USA-NOS-and-Tables_2003151338.pdf

pandemic, he was also ensuring that even more residents would be forced out of work.

On March 22, Governor Cuomo said[115] he had "never seen such volume" of unemployment claims. At yet, because he'd dragged his feet for four years on closing his widening budget gap, he had to force it on New York in 2020—possibly the worst time imaginable.

Furthermore, Cuomo began demanding New York acquire 110,000 hospital beds (at the time it had around 53,000), but had previously cut the budget to lose 20,000 beds over time[116]. Cuomo, through the years, had let his **GNYHA** friends dictate his decisions, and in many cases they'd argued aggressively to close them[117]. For example, in 2013 Stephen Berger (part of Cuomo's first MRT) wrote an article for the *New York Post* titled[118], "Why NYC Needs Hospitals to Close." They'd closed a Long Island hospital in 2014[119], to much protest at the time.

Plain and simple, Cuomo and his legion of healthcare executives had stripped New York of surge capacity, should it be needed, and only had themselves to blame. I'm certainly not suggesting government spending on Medicaid shouldn't be examined and trimmed whenever possible, but for all the complaining Governor Cuomo did about the United States Federal Government not being prepared or able to help, neither was he.

Being the governor of the fourth largest state in the country means you need to be prepared for anything, especially if you've been in office for a decade. Even IF the Federal Government needed to aid

115 https://wnbf.com/new-york-new-unemployment-claims-unprecidented/
116 https://nypost.com/2020/03/17/new-york-has-thrown-away-20000-hospital-beds-complicating-coronavirus-fight/
117 https://archive.is/1oEg5
118 https://nypost.com/2013/09/09/why-nyc-needs-hospitals-to-close/
119 https://web.archive.org/web/0/https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/23/nyregion/the-end-for-long-island-college-hospital.html

more states, New York had a $70 billion a year Medicaid budget. Surely Federal resources would be needed in poorer states more?

Cuomo Denies Federal Aid. The kicker—on March 18, 2020, Senator Chuck Schumer announced[120] he and a bipartisan group had secured over $6 billion in additional federal funds for New York to aid with Covid efforts, including funds meant specifically to help costs for seniors and those in long-term care facilities. Funds which Governor Cuomo said he had no plans to accept, because a stipulation[121] to receiving those funds is the state could not cut Medicaid funds for the year.
Cuomo had no plans to abandon his Medicaid budget cuts to accept the $6.7 billion in emergency money that would offset health care costs. “I say to Sen. Schumer, it would be nice if he passed a piece of legislation that actually helped the state of New York,” Cuomo said.

Schumer responded, “We agreed that there is significant money for New York in the bills we passed, but that much more is needed and we will continue to work together to make that happen, and to fix New York State’s (emergency Medicaid) issue as well.”

But Cuomo wouldn’t hear it.

“We can't do a budget without changes to Medicaid,” Cuomo told reporters, hinting[122] that he would stick with the plan to trim $2.5 billion from the state Medicaid program, even if it cost New York federal aid.

Take a minute to appreciate just how cruel the course is that Cuomo was willing to take. It would mean ramming through $2.5 billion in

120 https://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/after-schumers-successful-push-to-include-ny-specific-measures-into-first-of-its-kind-coronavirus-bill-senate-passes-fmap-legislation-unlocking-over-6-billion-for-nys_the-most-of-any-state-and-millions-for-counties-to-support-nys-fight-to-contain-coronavirus-spread-and-cover-mounting-local-costs

121 https://www.nydailynews.com/coronavirus/ny-coronavirus-cuomo-schumer-spar-over-federal-funds-20200329-ow4kf63xxfgcvm2tky7j2a6lxe-story.html

122 https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/politics/new-york-state/cuomos-medicaid-dilemma.html

cuts to the health care system that millions of the hardest-hit New Yorkers needed most to get them through the world's worst health care crisis in a century, while simultaneously depriving the same system of nearly $7 billion in federal aid. Not because the Medicaid budget was actually "out of control" like Cuomo insisted it was—but because he'd pilfered it for years, moved money from year to year to hide his deficits, and he decided 2020 was the year to play by the straight and narrow.

> O'Mara, Palmesano, and Friend urge Governor to accept federal aid and not pass Medicaid costs to counties: NYS can use $5.2B from federal stimulus package
>
> March 30, 2020 | ISSUE: 2020-2021 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET

This is simply how Andrew Cuomo operates. Once his mind is made up, it's made up. Even if other Democrats pleaded for him to change his mind, which many did. Once Cuomo's lobbyist and executive entourage tell him what to do, he does it. This is not anything new, but during the Covid outbreak in New York, it was a remarkably cold way to go about it. Of all the times to be lenient with your medical budget, it would have been 2020.

The Death Sentence. Another thing Cuomo had made his mind up about: He needed 110,000 hospital beds and 37,000 ICU units and ventilators[123]. And he would do anything it took to get them. He also sought to clear out hospitals of patients that didn't need to be there to make room for a potential surge of sick patients. So, on March 25, 2020, Cuomo signed the now-infamous order[124] alongside the NY

123 https://archive.is/BCGNH

124 https://web.archive.org/web/20200328184542/https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/doh_covid19-_nhadmissionsreadmissions_-032520.pdf

Dept. Of Health, mandating that Covid positive patients could not be turned away from nursing homes.

The advisory, signed by Andrew Cuomo, Howard Zucker, and Sally Dreslin, addresses "Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Nursing Homes."

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: March 25, 2020
TO: Nursing Home Administrators, Directors of Nursing, and Hospital Discharge Planners
FROM: New York State Department of Health

Advisory: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Nursing Homes

Please distribute immediately to:
Nursing Home Administrators, Directors of Nursing, Directors of Social Work, Hospital Discharge Planners

The statement claims that the urgent need to expand hospital capacity resulted in the directive, issued to clarify expectations for nursing homes (NHs) receiving residents returning from hospitalization and for NHs accepting new admissions.

No resident shall be denied re-admission or admission to the NH solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19. NHs are prohibited from requiring a hospitalized resident who is determined medically stable to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission or readmission.

And below, residents cannot be denied re-admission or admission to a nursing home based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of Covid-19. If a resident is determined to be "medically stable," a nursing home cannot require them to be tested for Covid-19 prior to admission or re-admission.

Read that again.

They have to take residents in, even if they have or are thought to have Covid. Not only that, they cannot even test them for the virus before allowing them in.

Absolutely beyond evil.

It's not like at this point Cuomo, Zucker, or Dreslin, (the signatories on the directive) didn't know that elderly and those with comorbidities were the most vulnerable. The day before the directive was signed, he said exactly that:

> "Eighty percent are going to self-resolve. Twenty percent are going to need hospitals. It's not about that. It's about a very small group of people in this population who are the most vulnerable. They are older, they have compromised immune systems, they are HIV positive, or they have emphysema, or they have an underlying heart condition, or they have bad asthma, or they're recovering from cancer. Those are the people who are going to be vulnerable to the mortality of this disease, and it is only 1% or 2% of the population. But then why all of this? Because it's 1% or 2% of the population. It's lives, it's grandmothers and grandfathers and sisters and brothers.

"It's about a very small group of people in this population who are most vulnerable. They are older, they have compromised immune systems […] it's grandmothers and grandfathers."

Matilda's Law. This directly opposed his executive order[125] Cuomo made on March 22, 2020, called "Matilda's Law." An order he named after his own mother.

"I call it Matilda's Law. My mother's name is Matilda. Everybody's mother, father, sister, friend in a vulnerable population—this is about protecting them. What you do highly, highly affects their health and well being," signed Governor Cuomo.

125 https://www.rochesterfirst.com/coronavirus/matildas-law-know-the-ny-rules-to-stay-safe/

"Matilda's Law" includes the following rules for vulnerable populations:

- Remain indoors;
- Can go outside for solitary exercise;
- Pre-screen all visitors and aides by taking their temperature and seeing if person is exhibiting other flu-like symptoms;
- Do not visit households with multiple people;
- Wear a mask when in the company of others;
- To the greatest extent possible, everyone in the presence of vulnerable people should wear a mask;
- Always stay at least six feet away from individuals; and
- Do not take public transportation unless urgent and absolutely necessary.

Matilda's Law says vulnerable populations should screen visitors and aides for fevers and flu-like symptoms, as well as a list of other things that make perfect sense for the elderly. So why, then, did his order three days later strip nursing home residents of those protections?

Cuomo Protects His Funders. Then it got worse. In the middle of everything going on, Cuomo's MRT team proposed amendments to his FY 2021 Enacted Budget that not only included the cuts to Medicaid spending, but also added in highly concerning protections for hospital and nursing home executives from civil and criminal liability. It is standard and fair to protect health care workers from liability while treating patients for a novel virus, which is what the amendment was presented as. But the inclusion of those not working within the medical facilities was not done on accident.

53 (f) a health care facility administrator, executive, supervisor, board
54 member, trustee or other person responsible for directing, supervising

S. 7506--B 347 A. 9506--B

1 or managing a health care facility and its personnel or other individual
2 in a comparable role.

Furthermore, the amendment doesn't include only those diagnosed with Covid-19 in medical facilities. It also includes those who seek care at any health care facility for the duration of the Covid-19 emergency declaration. The amendment was signed on April 2,

2020, but included a clause that it was "deemed to have been in full force and effect on or after March 7, 2020." So those civil and criminal protections were retroactive for the majority of March as well.

> § 3082. Limitation of liability. 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, except as provided in subdivision two of this section, any health care facility or health care professional shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, for any harm or damages alleged to have been sustained as a result of an act or omission in the course of arranging for or providing health care services, if:

On the same day, the **GNYHA** announced on their website their victory, stating the "**GNYHA** drafted and aggressively advocated for this legislation."

> News
>
> GNYHA Secures Immunity for Hospitals and Workers from Liability in Connection with COVID-19
>
> April 2, 2020

Immunity. However, immunity for doctors and nurses had already been secured on March 23, 2020, with and Executive Order and Disaster Emergency Declaration[126]. It wasn't until the passage of the amended annual budget that immunities were extended also to any "healthcare facility administrator, executive, supervisor, board member, trustee or other person responsible for directing, supervising or managing a healthcare facility and its personnel or other individual in a comparable role".

126 https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20210-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency

- Subdivision (2) of section 6527, Section 6545, and Subdivision (1) of Section 6909 of the Education Law, to the extent necessary to provide that all physicians, physician assistants, specialist assistants, nurse practitioners, licensed registered professional nurses and licensed practical nurses shall be immune from civil liability for any injury or death alleged to have been sustained directly as a result of an act or omission by such medical professional in the course of providing medical services in support of the State's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, unless it is established that such injury or death was caused by the gross negligence of such medical professional;

Hydroxychloroquine. It also barred Hydroxychloroquine from being dispensed without FDA approval or usage in a clinical trial—limiting it to a single fourteen day prescription without refills.

- No pharmacist shall dispense hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine except when written as prescribed for an FDA-approved indication; or as part of a state approved clinical trial related to COVID-19 for a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19, with such test result documented as part of the prescription. No other experimental or prophylactic use shall be permitted, and any permitted prescription is limited to one fourteen day prescription with no refills.

Hydroxychloroquine trials halted around the world after a study published in the Lancet concluded that usage of the drug had no benefit and would actually increase the likelihood of death. However, that study was retracted[127] on June 4, 2020, because the data in the study was not able to be independently verified.

Retraction—Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine with or without a macrolide for treatment of COVID-19: a multinational registry analysis

Published Online June 4, 2020 https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31324-6

After publication of our *Lancet* Article,[1] several concerns were raised with respect to the veracity of the data and analyses conducted by Surgisphere Corporation and its founder and our co-author, Sapan Desai, in our publication. We launched an independent third-party peer review of Surgisphere with the consent of Sapan Desai to evaluate the origination of the database elements, to confirm the completeness of the database, and to replicate the analyses presented in the paper.

Our independent peer reviewers informed us that

We all entered this collaboration to contribute in good faith and at a time of great need during the COVID-19 pandemic. We deeply apologise to you, the editors, and the journal readership for any embarrassment or inconvenience that this may have caused.

MRM reports personal fees from Abbott, Medtronic, Janssen, Roivant, Triple Gene, Mesoblast, Baim Institute for Clinical Research, Portola, Bayer, NupulseCV, FineHeart, and Leviticus. FR has been paid for time spent as a committee member for clinical trials, advisory boards, other forms of consulting, and lectures or presentations; these payments were made directly

Criminal Liability. As of May 25, 2020, New York and New Jersey were the only two states out of nineteen offering some form of

127 https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2820%2931324-6

immunity for hospitals and nursing homes that covered criminal liability[128] and negligence, found in an analysis by Nina Kohn, a Syracuse University law professor.

Cuomo's senior advisor, Rich Azzopardi[129], said, "This law was intended to increase capacity and provide quality care, and any suggestion otherwise is simply outrageous."

But in Kohns report, 16 of the 19 states offering immunity extended liability protections to individual workers within facilities and to nursing home facilities as a whole. New York explicitly extended that immunity to company executives and corporate board members —an expansion that would make it difficult for medical staff and front line workers in those facilities to speak up about malpractice they might witness from executive leadership.

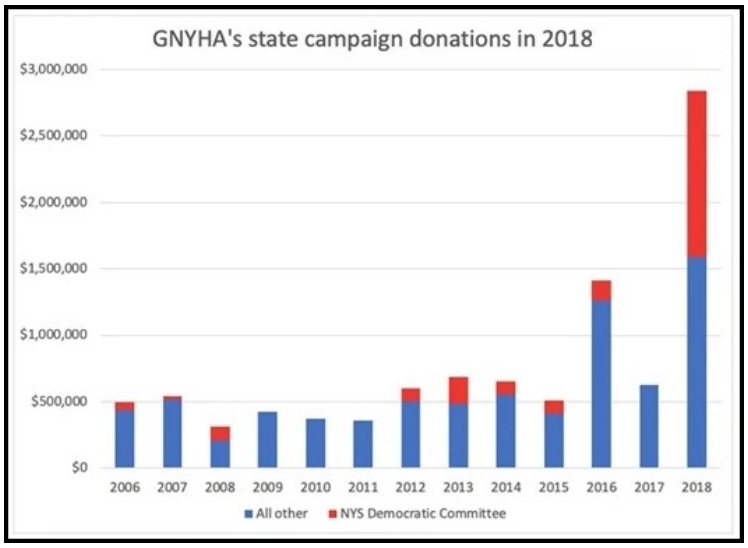
It also could potentially reduce the legal rights of contract workers—which medical personnel in operating rooms and janitorial staff in medical facilities usually are. Michael Duff[130], a leading expert on workplace law, says, "Ordinarily, employees of the institutions would be unable to sue because of workers' compensation exclusive remedy rule. But independent contractors aren't bound by that rule. They could sue but now because of this immunity they cannot."

Remember that massive donation[131] the **GNYHA**[132] made to Cuomo in 2018? The one that allowed him to crush Cynthia Nixon as other Democrats were ousted? In that same year, the in-house lobbyist for the **GNYHA**, David Rich, donated[133] significant amounts of funds to Cuomo as well. And lastly, a long list of hospitals and nursing

128 https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6927790-Kohn-Roberts-Chart-05-25-20.html
129 https://jacobinmag.com/2020/05/andrew-cuomo-immunity-nursing-home-lobbyists-coronavirus-covid
130 http://www.uwyo.edu/law/directory/mike-duff.html
131 https://apelbaum.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/campaign-spending-by-the-gnha-association.jpg
132 https://www.followthemoney.org/show-me?dt=1&y=2018,2017,2016,2015&f-fc=2,3&pt-eid=4904&d-et=3&d-cci=66#[{1|gro=d-id
133 https://web.archive.org/web/20210202204313/https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/26/nyregion/new-york-lobbying.html

homes within that same network[134] donated as well. It can easily be assumed that the specific verbiage, which does not exist in immunity clauses in other states, was written very purposefully.

By May 11, 2020, at least 28,100 residents and workers died[135] of Covid in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, and had infected an additional 153,000 in 7,700 facilities.



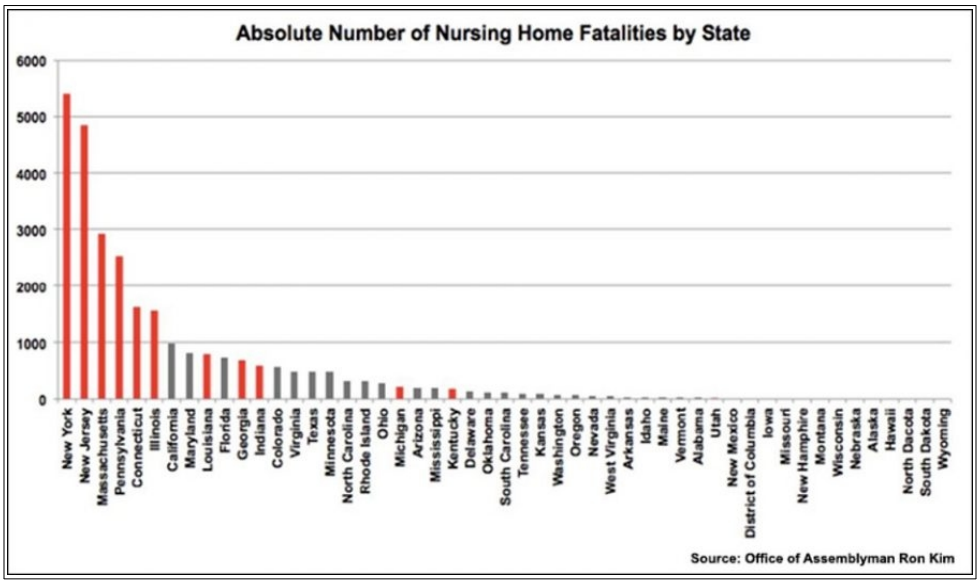
An analysis[136] found that "of the ten states with the highest fatality rates, eight have corporate immunity and represent 93 percent of all fatalities, or 63,187 deaths." The report also says the data show that "states with corporate immunity saw more than 3 times the absolute number of fatalities than states without such immunity. The average rate of death per state is 7.5 times higher in states with corporate immunity than states with no immunity for corporations."

New York also had the highest numbers by far at that time.

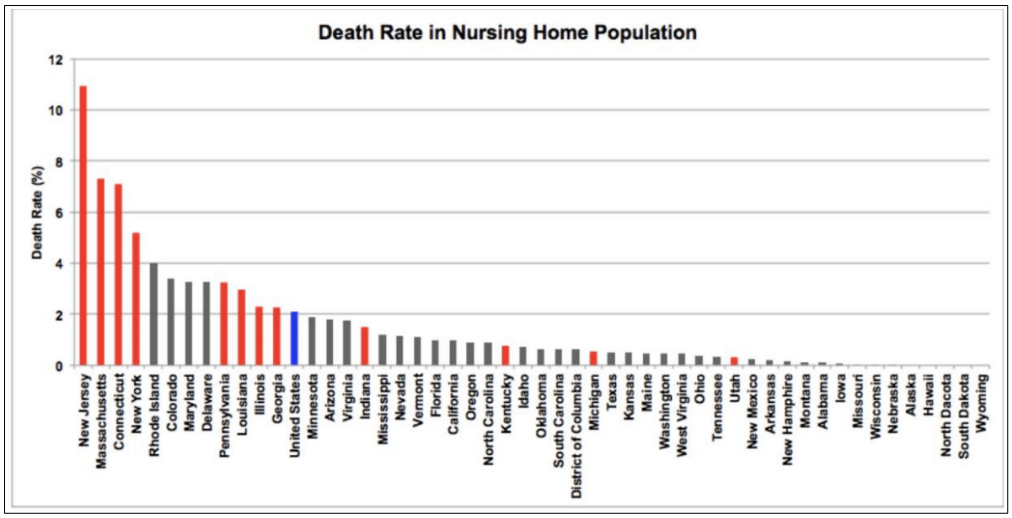
134 https://www.followthemoney.org/show-me?dt=1&y=2018&f-fc=2,3&c-t-eid=6466806&d-et=3&d-cci=66#[%7B1%7Cgro=d-id

135 https://web.archive.org/web/20200509093048/https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/05/09/us/coronavirus-cases-nursing-homes-us.html

136 https://www.dropbox.com/s/4cnp9drx3vf17lk/2020_RK_ImmunityKills%20Report%20DRAFT%20TWO%20Final.pdf?dl=0



And the fourth highest death rate.



In Cuomo's book, he addresses the nursing home deaths under the May 10th section. He writes, "By early spring, Republicans needed an offense to distract from the narrative of their botched federal response—and they needed it badly. So they decided to attack Democratic governors and blame them for nursing home deaths." He goes on to lament how awful it would feel to hear a loved one's life was lost "because of a government blunder."

> The entire episode was truly despicable. Imagine having lost a loved one in a nursing home. You are already questioning yourself about whether you should have removed them and then you hear their life was lost because of a government blunder. I have talked to many people who have lost loved ones in nursing homes, and I could see the agony on their faces and hear it in their voices. It's not so much that they were looking to blame anyone, they just needed to know what happened.

Storybook Narratives. I suppose that would be awful, but if it were true, family members have the right to know, yes? But Cuomo doesn't linger on that thought much longer. He then writes, "New York State never demanded or directed that any nursing home accept a COVID-positive patient. The Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidance was that a nursing home should continue to accept patients from hospitals where COVID-19 was present, and not discriminate against a COVID-positive person. The state followed the guidance, stating that nursing homes should not reject a patient 'solely on the basis' of COVID status."

I fail to see the difference between the two, but it seems to be good enough for Cuomo. He continues on with his next rationale:

> The context here is very important. Early on in the crisis, our main fear was that the hospitals would be overwhelmed, and collapse. All health professionals agreed that if that situation developed, we would need to free up hospital beds for people with critical needs. As it turned out, our successful efforts to reduce the viral transmission rate and create additional beds meant we were never in that dire situation. The state always had additional beds available all across the state. Therefore, the critics' premise that we "forced" nursing homes to take COVID-positive people is patently false and illogical because we always had alternative available beds throughout the state. We never "needed" nursing home beds.

Again, his argument still doesn't mean anything. They needed the beds, even if there were others available already, so patients were still moved into nursing homes. It doesn't matter if there were always enough beds. Covid patients were moved from hospitals into nursing homes.

This is the absolute absurdity of Governor Cuomo writing his victory book when the victory was nowhere near won yet—nor would it ever be. His book came out on October 13, 2020. A new report[137] proving him to be a liar came out in 2021 titled, "Over 9,000 Virus Patients Sent Into Nursing Homes." The report says 9,056 recovering Coronavirus patients in New York State were released from hospitals into nursing homes early in the pandemic. The number is 40% higher than previously released by the State health department.

Zero Transparency. Last May, when reporters reached out to inquire how many Covid-19 patients were discharged under the order, the New York Department of Health declined[138] to respond, saying their data was incomplete.

"It was the single dumbest decision anyone could make if they wanted to kill people," Daniel Arbeeny said of the directive, which prompted him to pull his 88-year-old father out of a Brooklyn nursing home where more than 50 people have died. His father later died of COVID-19 at home. "This isn't rocket science," Arbeeny said. "We knew the most vulnerable -- the elderly and compromised -- are in nursing homes and rehab centers."

In May last year, after reversing[139] the order, Cuomo deflected: "Any nursing home could just say, 'I can't handle a COVID person in my facility." Nowhere in the March 25 order did it specify that was the case, and up until the reversal, no such provision had been spoken about publicly either.

An Obligation to Receive Patients. Many nursing homes felt obligated and were subsequently overwhelmed. Gurwin Jewish

137 https://apnews.com/article/new-york-andrew-cuomo-us-news-coronavirus-pandemic-nursing-homes-512cae0abb55a55f375b3192f2cdd6b5

138 https://apnews.com/article/5ebc0ad45b73a899efa81f098330204c

139 https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20230-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency

received 58 Covid patients from hospitals shortly following the directive. In the end, 47 Gurwin residents died from the virus. CEO Stuart Almer said the State order, “put staff and residents at great risk. We can’t draw a straight line from bringing in someone positive to someone catching the disease, but we’re talking about elderly, fragile and vulnerable residents.”

Cuomo Ally Chimes In. Northwell Health responded positively, and said three of its medical centers were so overtaxed at one point they had to put some ICU patients in hallways. To relieve pressure, the company eventually sent more than 1,700 COVID-19 patients to nursing homes. Keep in mind, though, that the CEO of Northwell Health, Michael Dowling, is a board member of the **GNYHA** as well as a member of Governor Cuomo’s **MRT**.

Howard Zucker, whose name also was signed to the March 25 directive, said, ““At least 98% of nursing home facilities in the state had COVID in their facility before their first admission or readmission, and as we’ve seen across the nation, the major driver of infections appears to be from asymptomatic staff through no fault of their own.”

It begs the question, then, why Zucker’s Department of Health seems to be stuck in a constant state of tallying up data and unwilling to disclose any of it.

In Cuomo’s book, he whines that “the facts totally defeated the Republican claim [that his directive was a driving factor in the mass deaths in nursing homes]” and brags about New York having the fourth lowest percentage of deaths in the nation. The book came out, of course, long before all the lies about the numbers were uncovered.

> The facts totally defeated the Republican claim. Interestingly, this was not even a New York–specific issue. Quite the opposite. New York was number forty-six out of fifty in the nation when it came to percentage of deaths in nursing homes. There were only four states with a lower percentage of nursing home deaths, and New York had a much worse situation to manage. But this was all politics. No one wanted to hear the facts.

On January 19, 2021, the official number of nursing home deaths, according to the New York Department of Health tally, was 8,505. Later that day, Cuomo's administration confirmed an allegation that the number was actually 12,743—immediately placing New York's nursing home death rate as one of the highest, unlike Cuomo's claims in his book.

As it turns out, if residents did not die within their nursing homes because they'd been sent back to the hospital, their deaths had not been counted initially as a nursing home death—despite contracting the virus in their facility, and only being sent to the hospital because they were dying.

The early directives issued would come back to haunt tallies later—including one on March 21, 2020, which stated[140] testing of residents and healthcare workers "with suspect COVID-19 is no longer necessary and should not delay additional infection control actions."

When nursing homes were questioned weeks and months later, because they did not know who had died positive for Covid and who had not, the reported numbers were skewed. In many instances, when Covid was not confirmed, nursing homes didn't report the deaths as a possible or probable case—likely to lessen the pressure from family of residents and inquiring media members. Repeatedly, in article after article, nursing homes decline to answer questions—

140 https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/22-doh_covid19_nh_alf_ilitest_032120.pdf

even denying[141] information requested from family members of those who died in their facility.

It was not until an explosive report[142] was published from New York Attorney General Letitia James's office that the scale of the nursing home scandal would start to materialize.

Total Deaths Reported to OAG (incl. residents sent to hospitals) vs. Publicized by DOH

Facility Deaths Reported to OAG	1,914
Total Deaths Publicized by DOH	1,229
Difference	(685)
Over/Under Percentage	-55.74%

Deaths were grossly under-reported by the Department of Health—by approximately 50%. The report found that many nursing homes failed to isolate Covid positive patients, didn't screen or test employees, demanded sick employees continued to work, failed to train employees on infection protocol, and failed to provide PPE.

In one nursing home, positive and negative residents were treated solely with Tylenol and without isolation or respiratory care. In another, whenever an inspector would show up to ensure safety protocol was in place, staff on duty would stage PPE and proper bins to appear as if they were following safety guidelines, but had not been prior to then.

Some facilities would have as few as one nurse on duty per 120 residents.

James nails the deadly combination of the March 21 order that largely paused downstate testing, combined with the March 25 order

141 https://web.archive.org/web/20200515104250/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/17/nyregion/new-york-nursing-homes-coronavirus-deaths.html
142 https://web.archive.org/web/20210128150508/https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-nursinghomesreport-final.pdf

that both required nursing homes takes in residents who were Covid positive or not required by the order to be tested, greatly obscured the data.

Simultaneously, the protective legislation provided a loophole for immunity within the small exception window—and facilities were making decisions that were detrimental to residents for financial motives, not out of necessity or inability to do anything different.

> "[Immunity] shall not apply if the harm or damages were caused by an act or omission constituting willful or intentional criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or intentional infliction of harm. . . *provided, however, that acts, omissions or decisions resulting from a resource or staffing shortage* [emphasis added] shall not be considered to be willful or intentional criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or intentional infliction of harm."[55]

After a shocking admission from Cuomo's top aide, Melissa DeRosa, that the administration hid nursing home numbers for political reasons, matters only get worse. On August 20, the Senate and Assembly sent letters to the Department of Health with follow up questions to a previous testimony seeking additional information.

Cuomo's administration responded in September requesting to pause the inquiry. DeRosa said[143]: "The letter comes in at the end of August and right around the same time, President Trump turns this into a giant political football. […] He directs the Department of Justice to do an investigation into us. […] And basically, we froze, because then we were in a position where we weren't sure if what we were going to give to the Department of Justice or what we give to you guys, what we start saying was going to be used against us while we weren't sure if there was going to be an investigation."

143 https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/statement-secretary-governor-melissa-derosa-0

Melissa DeRosa

Melissa is often described as Cuomo's right hand. She joined[144] the Cuomo administration as his chief of staff[145] in 2013. She is credited[146] with "being the force behind several of the governor's key legislative victories such as paid family leave, $15 minimum wage, IVF/egg freezing insurance coverage requirement, and free college tuition."

She is the daughter of a prominent Albany lobbyist, Giorgio DeRosa, who is a senior partner at Bolton-St. John's. Her older sister, Jessica, and her younger brother, Joseph, also work at Bolton-St. Johns with her father. Her husband, Matt Wing, is a former press secretary to Cuomo and now serves as a senior communications executive with Uber, formerly working for the rideshare company in a lobbyist capacity[147]. Her mother-in-law[148], Audrey Strauss, is the US Attorney for New York's Southern District.

Before joining state government[149], DeRosa first worked in politics as an intern for the political director of the New York State A.F.L.-C.I.O., she was also the director of communications and legislation

144 https://web.archive.org/web/20130316091312/http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/16/nyregion/cuomo-hires-melissa-derosa-from-attorney-generals-staff.html
145 https://web.archive.org/web/20130527102653/http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/03152013-melissa-derosa
146 https://web.archive.org/web/20190528113141/https://www.lohud.com/story/news/2019/05/28/andrew-cuomo-melissa-derosa-unapologetically-fierce/1132974001/
147 https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2017/04/war-of-words-continues-over-derosa-appointment-111356
148 https://nypost.com/2021/02/13/cuomo-aide-melissa-derosa-is-related-to-top-fed-prosecutor/
149 https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/exclusive-cuomo-appoints-female-secretary-governor-article-1.3065631?cid=bitly

for Cordo and Company, an Albany lobbying firm., she was the New York State director of Organizing for America[150]—Barack Obama's national political action organization, and worked for a prominent Albany lobbying firm—also Bolton-St. Johns[151]—as a political consultant from 2005 to 2006.

Melissa is ambitious, well-connected, and catches the occasional bit of bad press for making shrewd public comments, such as the time she called Cynthia Nixon, Cuomo's challenger in 2018, "unhinged" on Twitter.

Melissa is a lot like her boss in a lot of ways, which is probably why she's been able to work with him for as long as she has. As Governor Cuomo's public image improved drastically in early 2020 and more people tuned in to watch his daily briefings or his antics with his brother, Melissa was usually somewhere to be found nearby—either sitting beside Cuomo behind a table in a panel discussion, traveling around New York for media events, or spotted trailing behind him, stony-faced with her eyes on her phone.

Melissa grew in popularity, albeit not as widely as her boss, but more people were taking notice of her than had previously. The same confidence that Cuomo projected, she did as well. Flattering articles about her began appearing in *The New York Times*, and as Covid took off in New York, suddenly she was everywhere—quietly, but she was there.

150 https://observer.com/2009/07/derosa-to-organize-for-america-3/
151 https://apelbaum.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/melissa-derosa-linkedin.jpg

Who Can Say 'No' to Cuomo? His Top Aide, Melissa DeRosa

Many unfamiliar with state politics have wondered about the steady, steely presence six feet from the governor's elbow during his popular daily briefings. Here's an introduction.

She had a reputation for being thoroughly prepared for anything, if not a bit of a stickler for the rules—even ones that might seem like overdoing it. For example, when DeRosa's now-husband proposed to her, she publicly disclosed[152] the engagement ring as a gift in her 2016 state financial disclosure. Friends said she was being cautious to avoid anything that could look like a potential conflict since Uber had business before the State and Wing wasn't yet a family member.

As secretary to the governor, she is the most powerful appointed official in the state, so being cautious wasn't necessarily a bad thing, but at other times DeRosa and Cuomo's office were dismissive of actual questions about ethics concerns.

Her appointment in 2017 raised questions about potential conflicts arising from her father's lobbying. Common Cause, an advocacy group for good government, released a statement[153] at the time, advising that Ms. DeRosa recuse herself from any issue involving her father or family.

No conflicts have been made public since her appointment. Susan Lerner spoke up again in 2020 in an email: "As the governor further consolidates power in this crisis [Covid-19], Common Cause/NY's

152 https://web.archive.org/web/20170529104313/http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/derosa-publicly-disclosed-engagement-ring-gift-article-1.3202371
153 https://web.archive.org/web/20210324013432/https://www.nytimes.com/article/who-is-melissa-derosa.html

concerns about staff conflicts of interest have only intensified. Who is meeting with whom? Who's getting contracts and who's not?"

Ms. DeRosa dismissed the queries, "I don't get to decide for family what their jobs are, and they don't get to decide for me what my job is. I do my best to live up to the highest ethical standards and be transparent as possible, and I think that is all you can ask."

As more and more of the truth comes out, however, it seems DeRosa's bravado about being a stickler for the rules may be just that—bravado.

It's not as if the inquiries made by Common Cause are unfounded—her father, brother, and sister all work for the same lobby group, Bolton-St. Johns, that she used to—one that often works in conjunction with the **GNYHA.** As you'll recall, the GNYHA donates major money to Governor Cuomo and usually has at least several appointees onto his committees and task forces. But the GNYHA isn't the only group donating to Cuomo—Bolton-St. Johns *also* contributed handsomely to Cuomo's campaigns in 2010, 2014, and 2018.

BOLTON-ST JOHNS — Non-Individual

General Data | Lobbying

As a contributor | Associated filers | Relationships

Overview | Industry | Candidates | Party Committees | Ballot Measure Committees | Independent Spenders | Office Holders

1 2 3 4 next

Candidate	Election Status	Status of Candidate	Specific Party	General Party	Election Jurisdiction	Election Year	Election Type	Office Sought	Incumbency Status	# of Records	Total $
CUOMO, ANDREW M	WON-GENERAL	WON	DEMOCRATIC	DEMOCRATIC	NY	2018	STANDARD	GOVERNOR	INCUMBENT	5	$40,000
CUOMO, ANDREW M & HOCHUL, KATHLEEN COURTNEY (KATHY)	WON-GENERAL	WON	DEMOCRATIC	DEMOCRATIC	NY	2014	STANDARD	GOVERNOR / LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	INCUMBENT	7	$30,000
KLEIN, JEFFREY D	WON-GENERAL	WON	DEMOCRATIC	DEMOCRATIC	NY	2014	STANDARD	SENATE DISTRICT 034	INCUMBENT	5	$17,500
CUOMO, ANDREW M & DUFFY, ROBERT J	WON-GENERAL	WON	DEMOCRATIC	DEMOCRATIC	NY	2010	STANDARD	GOVERNOR / LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	OPEN	3	$13,500

Giorgio DeRosa. Melissa's father in particular has drawn a lot of attention, largely due to to the fact that the lobbying firm he works for is described as a "government relations powerhouse" that has had its hand in a significant portion of New York's major legislation.

BOLTON ST. JOHNS

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Giorgio DeRosa

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Considered "one of the best lobbyists in town," by the Albany Times Union, Giorgio DeRosa is a partner at Bolton-St. Johns and the firm's chief Albany lobbyist.

Giorgio opened the Albany office of Bolton-St. Johns in 1996, elevating the firm from its New York City roots to a government relations powerhouse that has been consistently ranked among the top five lobbying firms in New York State. He has grown the firm from three employees to over thirty, and expanded operations with a Western New York office located in Buffalo, providing coverage throughout the state.

As a lobbyist, Giorgio has serviced clients in nearly every sector of the economy, developing and executing strategies on a diverse range of issues such as labor, technology, telecommunications, energy, gaming, Native American affairs, development, insurance and education, among others. With 30 years of experience, he has extensive knowledge of the legislative process and what it means to New York State clients.

He has worked on several successful procurement projects, including the New York State Medical Marijuana Program, the Department of Corrections Inmate Telephone System, the Upstate casino expansion, the New York State Prescription Drug Program, valued at $1 billion per year, and the New York State Mental Health Contract, valued at $120 million per year. He also spearheaded efforts leading to the deregulation of the cellular telephone industry, secured $20 million for a soccer stadium in Rochester, and $8 million for a project with the

He has a very impressive resume: "He has worked on several successful procurement projects, including the New York State Medical Marijuana Program, the Department of Corrections Inmate Telephone System, the Upstate casino expansion, the New York State Prescription Drug Program, valued at $1 billion per year, and the New York State Mental Health Contract, valued at $120 million per year. He also spearheaded efforts leading to the deregulation of the cellular telephone industry, secured $20 million for a soccer stadium in Rochester, and $8 million for a project with the New York Botanical Gardens."

During 2018, the year Cuomo got re-elected amid the Progressive blitz on political seats in New York, Bolton-St. Johns spent $4,864,202 on lobbying.

LOBBYIST NAME	TOTALS
KASIRER, LLC	$6,278,107
BROWN & WEINRAUB, PLLC	$6,020,618
BOLTON ST. JOHNS, LLC	$4,864,202

It is interesting that Giorgio DeRosa has lobbied for a $1 billion dollar a year prescription drug program in the State of New York, considering his daughter Melissa, according to her own press release, "led the office's effort to negotiate and pass the country's most aggressive prescription drug reform package, I-STOP (Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act).

MELISSA DEROSA

First woman to serve as Secretary to the Governor

Melissa DeRosa, an Albany native, was exposed to politics early through her father, whom she shadowed, at age eight, when he was working for the Public Employees Federation, a public sector union. While at Albany Academy for Girls, in eighth grade, DeRosa and a fellow classmate, Elise Stefanik, now a New York Congresswoman, lobbied administrators to install a snack machine to bring in revenue. At 16, she interned for the political director of the New York State AFL-CIO, and at 19 for then U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton's political action committee.

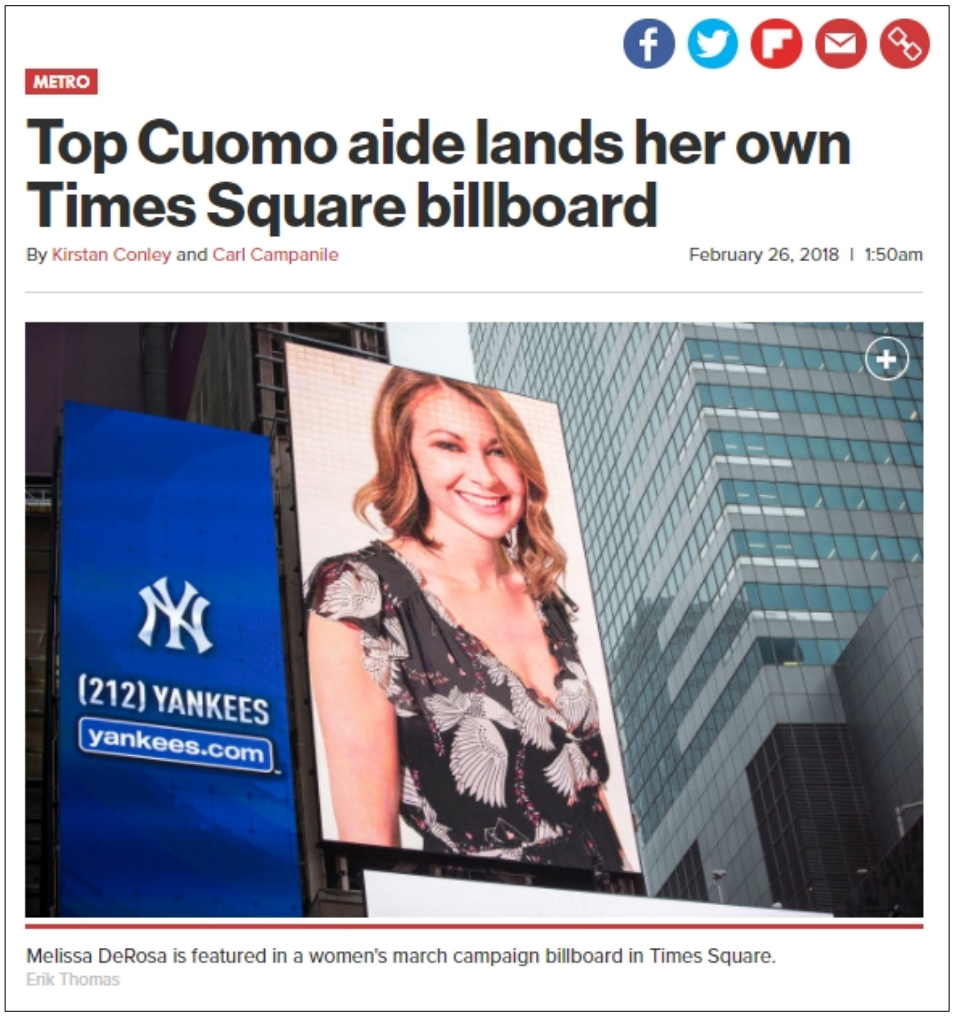
Before joining the Governor's Office, DeRosa worked in the Attorney General's Office as Deputy Chief of Staff and as Acting Chief of Staff. Ms. DeRosa led the office's effort to negotiate and pass the country's most aggressive prescription drug reform package, I-STOP (Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act). Prior to working for the Attorney General, DeRosa served as New York State Director of Organizing for America (OFA), President Obama's national political action organization, and worked on a number of political and policy campaigns.

Melissa seems to confuse activism with politics quite a bit—at least when it's convenient for her. On the next page you'll see Melissa insisting that New Yorkers mask up again—being sure to include the Marxist Black Lives Matter fists on her mask. Optics, I presume.

She also appeared on Times Square billboards in 2018 for a "Superwoman" campaign launched by Rebecca Minkoff[154] after she joined[155] the "MeToo" movement, "revealing how she was harassed on her to the top as an Albany lobbyist."

154 https://web.archive.org/web/20200606182758/https://www.rebeccaminkoff.com/blogs/editorials/rm-superwomen
155 https://web.archive.org/web/20201125152055/https://nypost.com/2018/02/26/top-cuomo-aide-lands-her-own-times-square-billboard/

In an article in *Jezebel* of all places, titled, “When a Public Official Sells Feminism, Who Is Being Empowered?” Ellie Shechet explores the odd juxtaposition of a woman who claims to be so principled with the reality that a person who allows herself to be slapped on a billboard for performance activism isn’t really doing much for the feminism movement.



METRO

Top Cuomo aide lands her own Times Square billboard

By Kirstan Conley and Carl Campanile

February 26, 2018 | 1:50am

Melissa DeRosa is featured in a women's march campaign billboard in Times Square.
Erik Thomas

“The women’s movement has experienced a thrilling resurgence in the time since Donald Trump was elected president, and along with it, the less thrilling phenomenon of commercial feminism. This is a messy state of affairs as it is, but when public officials are involved in packaging empowerment as a product to be consumed, the intended message can get even more garbled,” says the article.

It goes on:

““Having state officials featured in ads turns policy meetings into ethical minefields,” Jeff Trexler, attorney and associate director of the Fashion Law Institute at Fordham University, told Jezebel.

“I’ve never heard of anything like this before,” said Blair Horner, executive director of the New York Public Interest Research Group. As a rule of thumb, he said, public officials “are not supposed to be advertising products for businesses,” but he emphasized that DeRosa’s participation in the campaign appeared to exist in an ethical gray area, and that it would be best practice—though not required—for her to clear it with the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE).”

Ethical gray area? That’s Cuomo and DeRosa’s specialty!

Despite insisting again and again that the GNYHA, Bolton-St. Johns, Melissa DeRosa, and the people surrounding Cuomo are nothing but colleagues and the standard business practice around Albany, the facts are very clear:

- Melissa DeRosa is a very powerful woman, with a lot of powerful connections, and there’s a reason why Cuomo keeps her around.
- Cuomo’s verbiage that protected nursing home and hospital executives from criminal liability was intentional, and unlike the verbiage in any other protective legislation for any other states.
- Cuomo has repeatedly circumvented other elected officials to get his way. And he is continuing to do so. Executives are the ones calling the shots, not the State. It goes along the same

pattern that had existed within the Cuomo administration for years.

- This trend is also reflected in the development of regional vaccination hubs and networks for distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine in lieu of vaccination plans previously created by the State Department of Health in the last few years that would coordinate with local health departments. Instead, Cuomo formed a state task force that determined how distribution would take place. Regardless of your opinion on the vaccine, that choice is highly unusual.

HEALTH CARE

Health care executives involved in vaccine planning have close ties to Cuomo

This isn't the first time the governor has turned to or listened to old friends and allies.

By REBECCA C. LEWIS | FEBRUARY 2, 2021

- DeRosa admitted their team hid the nursing home numbers from public scrutiny for political gain. This is not up for debate. She admitted it was because she knew President Trump would come down on them for it. Ethics for DeRosa extend as far as is convenient for her.
- If the mainstream media hadn't latched onto Cuomo as "America's Governor" and steered public conversation about him away from criticism for the entirety of 2020. If they had not, perhaps things would be very different now. We'll never know.
- Cuomo was so upside down on his Medicaid spending because he'd repeatedly used those fund to benefit his executive masters that he decided 2020, the year when it might have been okay to let the budget go, was the year to weaponize his own mistakes against President Trump and refuse federals funds over it.

- Andrew Cuomo’s brother is a mouthpiece for his administration, and that media corruption is only a symptom of the rancid disease that is liberal politics in today’s America.

Covid Favors

March 25, 2021 - [156]Drug firm honcho given special access to state-run COVID-19 tests: reported

In April, Regeneron created 500,000 testing kits and provided them to the Empire State at no cost. It later played a key role in efforts to lower the risk of hospitalization and death among high-risk coronavirus patients.

Ties between the Cuomo family and the firm have run deep for decades. Mario Cuomo, the governor's father, invested $250,000 in Regeneron in 1991 when he was governor to support the firm.

In 2018, the current administration granted the firm up to $140 million in incentives to expand its operations in the Albany area, the paper reported.

156 https://nypost.com/2021/03/25/drug-firm-honcho-given-special-access-to-state-run-covid-19-tests-report/

In Closing

Around the same time as the New York nursing home death numbers were starting to fall apart, Chris Cuomo made the news again for defying his brother's orders—this time he was formally scolded[157] by his New York City apartment building management for not wearing a mask, as was required.

Management sent him a letter, saying he had been warned repeatedly and if he didn't adhere to the rules he would face a fine. Just one week before, he'd been in the news questioning why President Trump wasn't ashamed for "giving Melania and Barron Covid."

We learned today that Trump's teenage son had COVID," Cuomo said[158], "Good news. They say he was asymptomatic and is now negative. But here is why I bring it up. How can Trump keep holding potential super spreader events that will sicken other folks and maybe their kids after what his own family has been through?"

Just another instance of the media playing the smoke and mirrors game to his their own hypocrisy and corruption.

157 https://nypost.com/2020/10/21/chris-cuomo-scolded-for-not-wearing-a-mask-in-his-apartment-building/
158 https://www.newsweek.com/chris-cuomo-trump-melania-barron-covid-1539651

Cuomo's book has aged like curdled milk. Cuomo's last word on the matter in his book is not a heartfelt statement to family that lost loved ones, but a jab at Ron Desantis in Florida:

> express blessing of the DeSantis administration. Florida was having the problem we prepared for but which we avoided. Their hospitals were over capacity, and they had no choice but to send seniors back to nursing homes. They did not reduce the viral transmission rate the way New York State did, nor did they build the alternative additional beds we did. For New York, it was a worst-case-scenario plan that never materialized. For Florida, it was reality. Unsurprisingly, neither Donald Trump nor Fox News maligns Republican governor DeSantis for actually doing what they incorrectly accused New York of doing.

The level of sociopathic a person would have to be to write about that is insanely high. But also, given more time has passed and the truth on Cuomo's administration has come out, Desantis is finally getting the recognition he deserves and Cuomo is circling the drain.

#	USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	USA Total	30,624,156	+47,058	556,628	+681	22,914,110	7,153,418	92,519	1,682	391,968,186	1,184,184	
1	California	3,647,225	+1,429	57,462	+95	1,925,272	1,664,491	92,306	1,454	52,525,010	1,329,336	39,512,223
2	Texas	2,761,354		47,674		2,607,316	106,364	95,233	1,644	24,891,879	858,463	28,995,881
3	Florida	2,016,513	+5,302	32,840	+48	1,403,686	579,987	93,889	1,529	24,669,860	1,148,625	21,477,737
4	New York	1,848,593	+5,962	49,746	+16	1,002,785	796,062	95,026	2,557	43,094,389	2,215,244	19,453,561

Florida has 2 million more people than New York, has had 150,000 more cases than New York, but 17,000 fewer deaths and 1,000 less deaths per 1 million residents than New York. Florida also lifted restrictions in 2020 and Desantis allowed his state's economy to bounce back and for healthy individuals to make educated decisions about what is best for them without the need for government mandates.

Florida did a one month lockdown on April 1, 2020, and Desantis refused[159] to do it again. And for the rest of the year, he was

159 https://news.yahoo.com/rep-matt-gaetz-gov-desantis-102015135.html

criticized relentlessly by the media. But ultimately, it is Desantis who is vindicated, not Cuomo. After all… Florida is doing very well. New York is not. And it's only getting worse the more information comes out.

In early 2020, Cuomo imposed strict lockdown policies—many of which are still in place—and became the media's golden boy because of it. "The governor of New York's morning news conferences have become part of the country's new daily rhythm," the *Washington Post's* Style section gushed[160] in March 2020. "He's the strongman who can admit he's wrong. He speaks fluently about the facts. He worries about his mother, and by extension, yours, too."

A Wall Street Journal article[161] titled "Vindication For Ron DeSantis" details how Florida has the largest population over 65 aside from Maine, so naturally one might assume it would have the highest death rate. But like I showed above, it does not.

Florida's death rate among seniors is about 20% lower than California's and 50% lower than New York's, based on CDC[162] data.

Chris Cuomo had been very vocal about his disapproval of DeSantis's performance last year. "DeSantis in Florida let everybody go crazy over spring break," he said last June, "He then exported all that virus back to wherever—wherever they wanted to go, OK?"

But Florida's infection rate would stay on par with or better than other states still in strict lockdown.

When Florida saw a rise in cases in June last year, Dr. Fauci was quick to jump on the bandwagon. "Despite the guidelines and the

160 https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/andrew-cuomo-during-the-covid-19-crisis-is-the-same-as-ever-with-one-big-difference-people-like-him/2020/03/28/11a89a0a-6fd7-11ea-b148-e4ce3fbd85b5_story.html
161 https://archive.is/UKd1N
162 https://archive.is/o/UKd1N/https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Provisional-COVID-19-Death-Counts-by-Sex-Age-and-S/9bhg-hcku/data

recommendations to open up carefully and prudently, some states skipped over those and just opened up too quickly. Certainly Florida I know, you know, I think jumped over a couple of checkpoints."

But the rise in cases was no different from anywhere else, and Florida was completely open for business. And by late July, cases fell again.

So in the end, who's really the winner here? Certainly doesn't look like it's Cuomo. Or New York residents.

Looking back at opinion piece Cuomo wrote for the *New York Times* on March 15, 2020, it's terrifying to read what his proposals were in his open letter[163] to President Trump—including mandating a federalized shutdown and utilizing the military to operate hospitals: "We believe the use of active duty Army Corps personnel would not violate federal law because this is a national disaster."

Andrew Cuomo's governorship has been defined by cruelty that disguised chronic mismanagement. Why was that celebrated for so long?

We'll continue to explore this, and more, in the next installment!

163 https://web.archive.org/web/20210225003334/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/opinion/andrew-cuomo-coronavirus-trump.html

Media Perception

“I am the government.” - Andrew Cuomo[164][165]

King Andrew sez, ‘I am the government’

BY GLENN BLAIN

“L’etat, c’est moi!” (“I am the state!”) Louis XIV

Before Covid came along, reading about Cuomo you would read things like[166], “he's known for a hair-trigger temper and a penchant for both snarky and nuclear responses.”

164 https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/gov-andrew-cuomo-government-article-1.975258
165 https://www.pressreader.com/usa/new-york-daily-news/20111110/284069138486766
166 https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/lovett-cuomo-supporters-worry-temper-nixon-win-article-1.3895924

Sexual Harassment Claims

December 14, 2017

ON POLITICS

Cuomo: Female reporter's question on sex harassment was 'disservice to women'

Jon Campbell Democrat and Chronicle

Published 2:25 p.m. ET Dec. 14, 2017

View Comments

** Video in folder

"When you say, 'It's state government,' you do a disservice to women, with all due respect, even though you're a woman,' " Cuomo said. "It's not government. It's society. It was Harvey Weinstein in the arts industry. It's comedians. It's politicians. It's chefs, right? It's systemic."

Sam Hoyt, a Buffalo-area Democrat and former senior aide to Cuomo, was accused in November of sexually harassing and assaulting a former state employee, paying Lisa Marie Cater $50,000 so she would stay silent. Hoyt, resigned from his job as regional president of the Empire State Development Corp. in October and had been hired for that job three years after he admitted he had had an affair with an intern while a state legislator.

"He was asked about one industry and said it needs to be addressed across the board," Andrew Cuomo's top aide, Melissa DeRosa, wrote on Twitter after the governor faced a backlash on social media. "Limiting the problem to one man, political party or profession misses the whole point of the 'me too' moment."

January 8, 2019[167] - Governor Cuomo makes #MeToo joke on historic day for female politicians in New York
He's Cuomo-sexual.

Gov. Cuomo made a risque joke about sexual harassment as reporters swarmed him outside his Capitol office.

"Space, we need space," the Governor said to reporters who jockeyed to get in questions about the new legislative session. "I'll bring you up on charges under the Me Too movement."

Adding to the awkwardness, Cuomo made the comment shortly after Andrea Stewart-Cousins was installed as New York State's first female majority leader in the state Senate. She was sworn in by the female state chief judge, Janet DiFiore. The governor praised her success during "angry, hateful, bigoted times" after his #MeToo comment.

"I stand here in awe of everything that has happened," a beaming Stewart-Cousins had said minutes earlier from the Capitol rostrum, where attendees wore "Madame Leader" buttons on their lapels.

This isn't the first time Cuomo has raised eyebrows with a perceived sexual innuendo. Weeks before being re-elected in 2018, the three-time governor engaged in a chippy debate with Republican candidate Marc Molinaro, where CBS moderator Marcia Kramer asked Cuomo to sing a few bars of Jay-Z and Alicia Keys' "Empire State of Mind."

167 https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-andrew-cuomo-me-too-20190109-story.html

When Cuomo replied he only sings in the shower, Kramer continued to push him for a few lines. Cuomo again declined and said “Unless you come to the shower.”

Quotes

Who are they? Are they these extreme conservatives, who are right to life, pro assault weapon, anti-gay, is that who they are? Because if that is who they are, and if they are the extreme conservatives, they have no place in the state of New York. Because that is not who New Yorkers are.[168]

168 https://web.archive.org/web/20140802054617/http://www.governor.ny.gov/01192014statement

Other Big Moments

Governments continue to come up with new ways to prevent access to records[169]

May 8, 2008[170] - Cuomo Accuses Power Authority Officials of Erasing E-Mail of Investigation Target
Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo accused officials at the New York Power Authority on Wednesday of erasing e-mail messages kept by Daniel Wiese, the authority's inspector general and a key figure facing scrutiny in Mr. Cuomo's wide-ranging investigation of the State Police.

In a sharply worded letter to Roger Kelley, the authority's president, Mr. Cuomo said that his investigators had learned of an effort by authority personnel to erase messages from Mr. Wiese's BlackBerry and desktop computer on April 1, the day after Gov. David A. Paterson granted Mr. Cuomo sweeping powers to investigate whether State Police officials were involved in improperly monitoring politicians.

Mr. Wiese was formerly a high-ranking official at the State Police, where he worked for 25 years.

"Undoubtedly, you appreciate the seriousness of this extremely troubling conduct," Mr. Cuomo wrote. Under state law, it is a crime

169 https://web.archive.org/web/20191201005125/https://www.rcfp.org/journals/governments-continue-come-n/
170 https://web.archive.org/web/20180106025526/http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/08/nyregion/08cuomo.html

— potentially a felony — to destroy information sought or likely to be sought by subpoena. His office issued subpoenas to the authority on April 4.

October 27, 2010[171] - Democratic candidate for governor predicts clash over school aid, push back against special interests

October 29, 2010[172] – Where's Andrew Cuomo's Tax Returns?

July 2, 2012[173] -

This month, several weeks after receiving questions from The Times about its record-keeping, the Cuomo administration released a policy that lays out what types of documents must be retained and for how long. The policy generally allows Mr. Cuomo's aides to determine for themselves which of their electronic messages should be kept and which can be destroyed.

Notes

1. Active files are maintained in Executive Chamber unless specified otherwise.
2. This records retention and disposition schedule will supersede and replace any other records retention and disposition schedules of the Executive Chamber.
3. Form acknowledgement letters from and mass mailings to the Governor will not be retained.
4. Where retention period is until end of administration, but file is needed for transition, retain in office for transition.
5. Where retention period is until end of administration, and file is not needed for transition, disposition may commence prior to end of administration.
6. Governor may elect to designate any record of historical significance for Governor's Papers collection.
7. Executive Chamber administration files are maintained pursuant to the Records Management Procedures of the Division of the Budget.
8. The websites are to be archived at the end of administration.
9. According to the NYS Archives, "[m]any e-mail communications are not records and are therefore suitable for immediate destruction. Those messages and attachments which are records should be maintained in appropriate electronic or paper files and disposed consistent with applicable authorizations for those records." For this reason, the NYS Archives' standard instruction is that e-mails should be deleted "after messages and attachments are opened and records have been saved in appropriate electronic or paper file." See the General Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York State Government Records at http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/records/mr_pub_genschedule_accessible.html. The Executive Chamber adopts the NYS Archives' policy with respect to e-mails but goes further to state that all electronic communications, whether by e-mail, text, or Blackberry pin, will fall under this policy and will be retained consistent with this records retention and disposition schedule if they constitute records. It is the content and not the form or method of the communication that governs retention.

171 https://web.archive.org/web/20160817040559/http://www.timesunion.com/default/article/Cuomo-Tough-future-725091.php

172 https://web.archive.org/web/20181103000421/https://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/33702/wheres-andrew-cuomos-tax-return/

173 https://web.archive.org/web/20150304203630/http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/records/mr_pub_genschedule_accessible.html

July 16, 2012[174] - Despite Cuomo's Vow of Sunlight, a Bid to Keep Aides' E-Mail in the Dark

Aides communicate with untraceable messages sent from BlackBerry to BlackBerry. Nothing delicate is shared using e-mail. And in-boxes are regularly wiped clean.

The Cuomo administration's sensitivity to sunlight is well known. Aides in the governor's office have been warned about discussing work matters at Albany haunts. On one occasion, Mr. Cuomo's spokesman worried publicly that someone was rummaging through the office's trash. And the administration has been aggressive in redacting documents before sharing them with the public; in June, when it turned over months of Mr. Cuomo's schedules to The New York Times, even the daily weather forecast was blacked out. (The office has since pledged to release the forecasts.)

Mr. Cuomo has struck a pragmatic tone on the issue. "You can always have more transparency," he said in a radio interview in March. But at the same time, he added, "you can't live your life in a goldfish bowl."

The governor and his aides occasionally joke about their reputation for secrecy. A humorous video they produced for the annual dinner of the Albany press corps in May included a scene in which the governor's communications director, Richard Bamberger, frantically stuffed documents into a shredder.

Written communications between the governor and his aides are often via BlackBerry PIN messages — short transmissions sent from one BlackBerry to another — which are not logged by Research in Motion, the maker of the BlackBerry, or by the governor's office. The acronym PIN refers to the personal identification number that

174 https://web.archive.org/web/20201125032934/https://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/17/nyregion/a-bid-to-keep-the-governors-e-mails-in-the-dark.html

each BlackBerry is assigned. Aides do not regularly use their government e-mail addresses for substantive correspondence, and some are quite fastidious about deleting the messages they do send.

Ebola

October 24, 2014[175] - First Patient Quarantined Under Strict New Policy Tests Negative for Ebola

The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey also raised an issue. “We understand the importance of protecting the public from an Ebola outbreak,” it said in a statement, but the mandatory quarantine actions “raise serious constitutional concerns about the state abusing its police powers by detaining people who are exhibiting no Ebola symptoms.”

October 25, 2014[176] – Quarantine

Bill de Blasio held a press conference detailing increased monitoring of travelers who have recently been in Sierra Leone, Liberia, or Guinea. Two hours later, Governor Andrew Cuomo went a large step further, announcing that New York would begin automatically quarantining medical personnel returning from Ebola-stricken countries through JFK.

October 25, 2014[177] - UTA grad isolated at New Jersey hospital in Ebola quarantine

I am a nurse who has just returned to the U.S. after working with Doctors Without Borders in Sierra Leone - an Ebola-affected country. I have been quarantined in New Jersey. This is not a situation I would wish on anyone, and I am scared for those who will follow me.

175 https://web.archive.org/web/20201112013455/http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/25/nyregion/new-york-ebola-case-craig-spencer.html?_r=0

176 https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2014/10/new-yorks-ebola-response-gets-political.html

177 https://web.archive.org/web/20141031225414/http://www.dallasnews.com/ebola/headlines/20141025-uta-grad-isolated-at-new-jersey-hospital-as-part-of-ebola-quarantine.ece

I am scared about how health care workers will be treated at airports when they declare that they have been fighting Ebola in West Africa. I am scared that, like me, they will arrive and see a frenzy of disorganization, fear and, most frightening, quarantine.

Four hours after I landed at the airport, an official approached me with a forehead scanner. My cheeks were flushed, I was upset at being held with no explanation. The scanner recorded my temperature as 101.

The female officer looked smug. “You have a fever now,” she said.

I explained that an oral thermometer would be more accurate and that the forehead scanner was recording an elevated temperature because I was flushed and upset.

At the hospital, I was escorted to a tent that sat outside of the building. The infectious disease and emergency department doctors took my temperature and other vitals and looked puzzled. “Your temperature is 98.6,” they said. “You don't have a fever but we were told you had a fever.”

After my temperature was recorded as 98.6 on the oral thermometer, the doctor decided to see what the forehead scanner records. It read 101. The doctor felts my neck and looked at the temperature again. “There’s no way you have a fever,” he said. “Your face is just flushed.”

My blood was taken and tested for Ebola. It came back negative.

"The patient continues to be quarantined and remains in isolation and under observation at University Hospital in Newark," said a Department of Health statement[178] issued early Saturday.

178 https://www.nj.com/news/2014/10/newark_ebola_case_is_false_alarm_nurses_lab_test_negative.html

On Sunday, Hickox did an interview with CNN from inside the medical tent where she is being kept. The tent lacks a flushable toilet and a shower, and Hickox said cell-phone reception there is poor. She doesn't have access to her luggage and has only been given scrubs to wear.

October 26, 2014[179] - New York State Releases Fact Sheet on State Screening Protocols at JFK International Airport

The fact sheet released by Governor Cuomo says that if an asymptomatic person who had direct contact with Ebola patients arrives in New York, "they will be transported by private vehicle (arranged by the New York State Department of Health or local health department) to their homes where they will be quarantined for 21 days." The policy says nothing about out-of-state residents, but notes, "For those without homes, other accommodations will be made."

October 27, 2014[180] - Cuomo Jokes That People Under Ebola Quarantine Can Pass Time Reading His Book

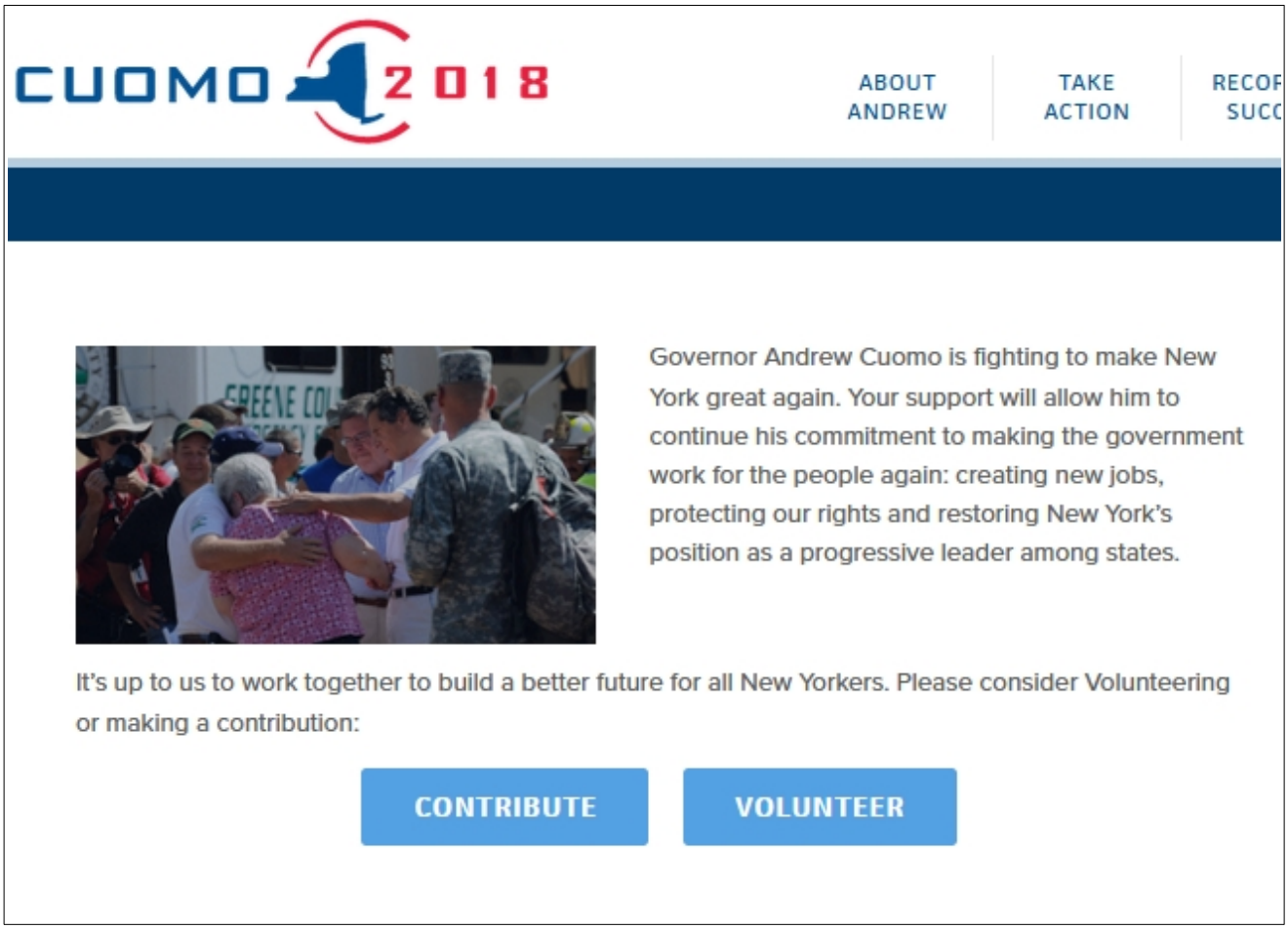
"I'm asking those people who were in contact with infected people: Stay at home for 21 days. We will pay," he said. "Enjoy your family, enjoy your friends, read a book — read my book — you don't have to read my book, but stay at home for 21 days."

July 9, 2018[181] - Cuomo campaign amends 'all-you-can-drink' fundraiser invite

179 https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/new-york-state-releases-fact-sheet-state-screening-protocols-jfk-international-airport

180 https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2014/10/cuomo-people-under-quarantine-can-read-my-book.html

181 https://web.archive.org/web/20180729112241/https://www.timesunion.com/7day-state/article/Cuomo-campaign-amends-all-you-can-drink-13059615.php



"Make New York Great Again"